

# THE ZOIST.

No. XXXVIII.

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JULY, 1852.

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1. *Nervous Affections. Metallo-therapia, or Metal-cure: new properties of Metals illustrated through Mesmerism, by Dr. Burq, of Paris.* Translated and communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"We are living in an age of wonders—guns are fired on the cliffs of Dover by a galvanic current sent in less than a second under thirty miles of sea from the opposite coast of France. The portrait of a respectable gentleman, including whiskers and eyelashes, is transferred by light in a second of time to a plate of silver: and the quantity of sugar in the urine of a diabetic patient is actually measured by a ray of polarized light. Any one of these facts would have led to the judicial combustion of the inventor in Smithfield two hundred years ago: *their effect at the present time is to make us cautious in what we admit and what we deny.*"—*London Medical Gazette*, Dec. 12, 1851.\*

## FIRST PART.

THE interesting discoveries of Dr. Burq, a Parisian physician, were announced in *The Zoist* for last September: and mesmerism, so unfortunately scoffed at by its opponents, was said to have led him to the brilliant results, which, under the title of metallo-therapia, or metal-cure, promised farther important additions to our inefficacious and difficult treatment of nervous diseases.

Dr. Burq, being lately in London for the purpose of treating a lady of high rank in his peculiar method, communi-

\* The *London Medical Gazette*, after an existence for nearly thirty years, difficult even under the parental care of the house of the Longmans, gave up the ghost on the last day of last year, and was buried in the *Medical Times*, outside which its name may be seen,—*omne quod restat*: and, though it had called all the writers of *The Zoist* impostors,\* and declared that none but the writers themselves ever read *The Zoist*, and carefully excluded the splendid facts of *The*

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\* See *Zoist*, No. XXVII., p. 309.

eated to the conductors of *The Zoist*, both in conversation and by presenting them with his writings,\* such statements as the following, and exhibited to them facts which must shed additional splendour upon the great truths advocated by them; and, if the alleged discoveries of this physician are real in every particular, as it is hoped they will prove, it will be very curious, after the mode in which they originated has been described, to see the detractors of *mesmerism* push their denial so far as to reverse the conduct of the Roman emperor, who considered even the money gained through vice to be good.

"In 1847," writes Dr. Burq, "I noticed in a woman labouring under hysteria and phthisis, and whom I had begun to mesmerise publicly in the hospital Beaujou, that, as often as she was thrown into the *mesmeric* sleep, the direct contact of *certain* metals was insupportable; whereas that of others was agreeable to her touch, or at least caused no signs of

*Zoist* from the knowledge of its own unfortunate readers,† just like the rest of the conscientious medical journals, and abused mesmerism and mesmerists in a way absolutely shocking for "a learned," "an honourable," "a benevolent," and "an enlightened" profession,—the *Medical Gazette*, like a worn-out sinner, poured forth on its death-bed the confession constituting our motto, within three weeks of its decease, in true penitence, I trust, for its evil courses in preventing to the utmost of its power the spread of science and the means of alleviating to an incalculable extent the sufferings of sentient beings, and in abusing and injuring men who were anxious for good only, and willing to suffer for the sake of truth and humanity.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

\* Especially an unpublished memoir, entitled *Les Métaux éclairés par le MAGNETISME*.

† In No. II. of *The Zoist*, 1843, is Mr. Chandler's fine mesmeric cure of insanity, and before that time it had been rejected by the *Lancet* in these words: "We cannot undertake to give publicity to any communications on animal magnetism." Oct. 27, 1838. And again: "We have already stated that we cannot insert any communications in support of the extravagant humbug of animal magnetism." Dec. 8, 1838. "The letter of Mr. Chandler's is inadmissible." Dec. 15, 1838. Mr. Chandler then sent it to the *Medical Gazette*, Messrs. Longman and Co.'s editor being Dr. Macleod, a physician of St. George's Hospital. It was rejected in these words: "Although we do not always agree with the editor of the *Lancet*, yet with respect to Mr. Chandler's communication we must also answer that it is inadmissible." Dec. 22, 1838. Dr. Esdaile not long since sent a mesmeric communication from India to the *Medical Gazette*: but, though published, it was "mutilated in the most unwarrantable manner," as he informs us in the pamphlet just published by him, entitled *The Introduction of Mesmerism*, &c., p. 6. 1852.

In No. XVII. is a report upon 102 of Dr. Esdaile's cases by a committee. "It was drawn up by men quite ignorant of *mesmerism*, and violently prejudiced against the subject, and thus unfit, intellectually and morally, for the task. I exposed the report in the same number, and published the exposure of it made by the honest, manly editors of all the Indian newspapers." "Dr. Esdaile demolished all the sayings and doings of his weak official visitors, as may be seen in No. XXII., p. 158." The editor of the *Medical Gazette* published the report, but did not even allude to Dr. Esdaile's demolition of it: to its exposure by all the newspapers of India: or to my refutation of it. Other gross acts of the *Medical Gazette* will be found in *Zoist*, Nos. XXVII. & XXVIII.—J. ELLIOTSON.

repugnance. If, for instance, I suddenly placed a piece of *copper, iron, or steel* upon her bare hand or any other part, she instantly, and sometimes in the midst of the apparently deepest sleep, repelled it roughly, often with an expression of suffering, or even of anger, if the experiment was repeated too frequently. If a key, or a shovel, or iron tongs were placed upon her bed, near enough to her to make their influence felt, she instantly discovered them and got rid of them, either by a sudden movement if the object were not fixed nor large, or with her hand, *covered previously with something to insulate it*, when a greater and more direct effort was required. The latter precaution was always carefully taken when, in order to open a door in her sleep-waking, she was under the necessity of slowly turning the key or the handle of the lock.

"If gold or silver, on the contrary, were placed in her hands, she was pleased to handle them, provided the gold, and especially the silver, was not much alloyed with copper. If it were, her repugnance almost always indicated the general degree of the alloy.

"Being greatly surprised at these preferences, and unable to explain them, I one day made the following experiment. The patient being mesmerised and her insensibility perfectly proved by a pin, I repeatedly applied to several parts of her body different pieces of money of nearly equal size. With the copper coins, a few seconds were sufficient to restore sensibility, first in the parts touched by the metal, and then in the surrounding parts: whereas with the gold and silver nothing of the kind was observed, except when, instead of the silver coin, I substituted another piece of the same metal of inferior value by being an alloy.

"The patient died a few days afterwards, before I could draw any conclusion: but these first results had presented me with a new and easily accessible aspect of mesmerism: and I almost entirely quitted the delicate and difficult study of sleep-waking, in order to examine the physical and therapeutic phenomena only, and the means of giving to the former the character of scientific truth. Paris was at that time so shamefully overrun with somnambulism and its errors, and the fourth part of its journals had been so often disgraced by the false statements of its pretended prophetesses, that a new direction of investigation was not favourably received: and, among mesmerists and my masters and colleagues in the hospitals, some pardoned me or at most pitied me for pursuing such dangerous enquiries, while others, more prudent or less prejudiced, did not deny what they believed to be true in the matter, as regarded either Mesmer or his

followers, and took a pleasure in seeing me occupied in studying his writings afresh.

"I, therefore, had no want of subjects for my experiments, and I received frequent flattering invitations to prosecute my investigations in several of our large hospitals. But, notwithstanding the kindness of my masters and the warm sympathy of my colleagues; notwithstanding my residence and my duties as house-pupil in an hospital where a large number of patients were of course accessible to my experiments, I felt myself constrained in the wards of an hospital, and I hired a private house that I might, at my own sole responsibility, observe and experimentalize freely upon such poor people as were willing still to receive my gratuitous services.

"At a later period, joining to my own private patients those of my friends, I neglected no opportunity offered to me by chance or intentionally to enrich my own observations with those of others, and thus, dear Dr. Elliotson, I have been enabled, after persevering in my researches for three years and conquering my difficulties, to discover and class the numerous facts, the most remarkable of which I will now relate to you."

Many pages would be necessary to detail all that Dr. Burq has communicated or been desirous of communicating upon this new and interesting subject; but the present communication must be limited to the consideration of the metal-cure and of mesmerism from which this originated.

Soon after the death of that patient, Dr. Burq never losing sight of mesmeric insensibility or anæsthesia, which he was gradually induced to regard as the most prominent mesmeric phenomenon and in some measure as the groundwork of mesmerism, made fresh experiments with the same metals and found his results completely confirmed, and this more extensive and varied observation furnished him with additional facts. For instance, nearly all his mesmeric subjects, when in the state of sleep-waking, lost their sensibility altogether or in part, and in those who lost it entirely a few square inches of copper, applied upon a bare limb fully open to observation, gave rise in a few seconds to a sensation, usually disagreeable, of cold, or of burning, as it might be, according to the individual, and to a sense of tingling that was always in relation with the degree of anæsthesia and followed by almost immediately a return of sensibility. The tingling and insensibility, excited at first when the metal was applied, spread to the surrounding parts, and sometimes at length reached the most distant. The patients, thus restored

to sensibility, the loss of which was an inevitable condition of their mesmeric sleep, then awoke. But this mode of awaking them,—by a plate of copper applied to one limb only, required longer time and was occasionally incomplete and not free from disagreeable effects on the nervous system. On the contrary, if Dr. Burq had supplied the legs and arms and pit of the stomach with plates of the same metal, the demesmerisation, always preceded by the return of sensibility, took place rapidly and without any disagreeable effect. The mental condition of the patient and operator made little difference in the result. The will had no influence, and the avidity of the copper for the mesmeric agent was such, that Dr. Burq had often seen it act directly through a piece of thick silk, or continuously beyond a tight broad silk bandage. This metal did not act on mesmeric insensibility only: for, operating exactly like negative mesmeric passes, whatever might be the degree of the spasmodic contraction of a strongly mesmerised limb, or whatever intensity had been given to artificial contractions of the stomach, by the aid, for instance, of supplementary passes, the mere application of the brass was sufficient to relax them rapidly and completely, and at the same time to restore perfect sensibility to the skin.

But, if the brass always proved equally powerful over sensibility and contractility, this was far from being the case with other metals. Thus Dr. Burq occasionally found iron and steel demesmerise as readily as copper; but in other cases they either were readily saturated with the mesmeric force or appeared to produce no effect upon it. Gold and silver exhibited the same uncertainty and variability, and, whereas gold was usually agreeable or indifferent to the sense of touch and also without effect upon sensibility, it was so powerful upon some persons, though certainly but a small number, that, to give but one instance, Dr. Burq one day saw a robust man, a professional sleep-waker, seized with a violent chattering of the teeth, because, during his mesmeric sleep-waking, a gold watch had touched one of his hands.\*

The difference in the action of these various metals, which are all nearly equal as conductors of electricity, threw no light upon the very remarkable discovery of the difference of the aptitudes of metals that contains the germ of the metal-cure, and at first only embarrassed him, as he confesses, and

\* This sleep-waker had so thoroughly learnt the antimesmeric property of gold, at his cost, during his hours of consultation, that, before being sent into sleep-waking, he always removed his gold rings and other ornaments and gold money, which he had about him in his ordinary state without the least inconvenience, and of which he shewed himself very fond, like all persons of his profession.

occupied no more of his attention, and indeed left scarcely any trace of their valuable suggestions.

After investigating the effect of the different metals upon mesmeric *anæsthesia* (loss of common feeling) and upon *amyosthesia* (loss of motion), Dr. Burq examined the effects of electricity, mineral magnetism, insulating substances, saline and other liquids, of the wind when in different quarters, &c., and fresh and very interesting facts, not unexpected indeed, on account of the presumed analogy of the mesmeric to the electric fluid, soon presented themselves, and added to the physical and almost material demonstration of mesmerism. A single example, like many others to be found in Dr. Burq's second memoir, entitled *Le Magnétisme éclairé par les métaux*, will suffice for illustration.

"After experiencing nothing but incredulity from my colleagues and friends," says he, "I thought of convincing them by the opposite qualities of conducting and non-conducting substances. I, therefore, placed copper, iron, and steel on one side, and glass, resin, and various sorts of wood on the other, in the form of cylinders of equal weight, volume, and polish; and, with the view of obtaining more accuracy, I wrapped each up in a little piece of dark coloured cotton. Having satisfied myself of the demesmerising power of one or two of the metallic cylinders on particular individuals and of the inertness of one or two others, I insulated them: and it is very remarkable that there were differences in different persons as to their aptitude for insulation by various substances, just as for their aptitude to be affected by the various metals. I next gave the metals to the persons, begging them to rub the substances either successively or simultaneously upon different parts of their bodies that had been ascertained to be insensible: and, as the sensibility never returned except in the part to which the metal was applied, I frequently satisfied the incredulous by this unanswerable demonstration.

"However, these researches had led to no practical result beyond mesmerism: when, towards the end of 1848, a fortunate circumstance, on which I must dwell a little, having proved the perfect similarity as to every particular in mesmeric subjects of the spontaneous spasms with those induced artificially by mesmerism, a very wide field was opened for the application of the metals.

"Among the patients in the *Hôpital Cochin*, to which my colleague was attached at that time, was a case of hysteria of long standing, in which the surgeon of the establishment gave me permission to try mesmerism as a last resource."

As soon as this new treatment was adopted, the patient

became so fond of mesmerism, that, in spite of all Dr. Burq's care to free her from it, she was frequently seized with attacks in her chest that nothing but demesmerising passes would overcome.

One evening, when the spasms of the stomach were more violent than usual, and the rather late hour made his colleague very anxious to produce a calm, which was as important to the other patients near her as to herself, it struck him that, instead of the mesmeric passes and breathing, he would apply the metal which he had so often used successfully in the cramps produced artificially by mesmerism. "I applied," says he in his first memoir, "a large plate of copper upon the pit of the stomach and a ring of the same metal around each limb: and in three or four minutes the chokings, palpitations, and vomitings ceased. The patient, liberated in this manner from an attack which usually lasted several hours, fell asleep, and did not wake all night, notwithstanding, or more properly in consequence of, the metallic rings. Two or three days afterwards, the same attack returned, and I again had recourse to the metal, and again the spasms at once yielded to it. After several minutes of the greatest calm, I removed the armature, and almost immediately the retchings, and presently the vomitings and the violent chokings and palpitations, recurred in their original intensity. I wished to take advantage of this opportunity for making a last trial of the mesmeric measures proper in such circumstances: but I was as unsuccessful as ever, and could produce a momentary calm only which had to be procured again on every fresh attack. I was therefore compelled to trust to the copper; and I applied the plate and rings. In less than a minute the most complete success proved to me for the third time their antispasmodic property.

"However, as the spasms were the result of the mesmerism only, it was still more necessary to remove all doubt of the efficacy of the metals.

"For many months, every fourth evening, at nearly the same hour, this patient, who was a rich mine of observation, had long and frightful hysterical attacks with loss of consciousness. All the ordinary measures did but modify them. I alone, once in the presence of my two colleagues in the hospital, was able to master them by negative mesmeric passes: but the struggle had been so long and difficult, and so completely failed to cure the disease, that I felt no desire to gain a second victory at the same cost.

"On the 15th of December, about five o'clock in the afternoon, the usual precursors of the attack began: at eight

o'clock they had reached their height, and a moment afterwards the convulsions made their appearance. The patient being upon a high bed with nothing to prevent her falling out, five attendants threw themselves upon her to keep her in it. Four held her extremities, each one: and the fifth, the strongest of all, took charge of her body. The patient, a strong peasant girl, with voluminous muscles, and *semiparalytic in her ordinary state*, was convulsed with an energy which none could believe but those accustomed to see such cases.

"I remained for a moment an inactive and silent spectator, wondering what could be nature's object in instantaneously causing such a prodigious loss of innervation. Then, in the midst of the strongest efforts of the assistants against the mysterious power which resisted all their efforts, I applied pieces of brass successively:—two rings 5 or 6 centimetres (2 English inches) broad upon each limb; two other larger and broader rings upon the trunk; and a crown of it upon the head. In proportion as their operation proceeded, the convulsions diminished in the limbs: the pelvis was less violently thrust forwards; and, before the last ring was placed, the poor creature had recovered her consciousness, left off shrieking, and begged the astonished assistants to set her limbs at liberty. A moment later she was calm or nearly so; almost motionless upon her back. But a little stiffness, insensibility of her surface, and some confusion of ideas, with some difficulty of expressing herself, wandering pains, slight nervous twitchings, and a degree of agitation, gave evidence that the attack had not completely subsided. In order to be certain, I took the ring off one arm, and immediately the convulsions began again: I replaced the ring, and the arm regained its semirelaxation. I made the same experiment with other limbs, and equally obtained partial convulsions at pleasure and regulated them at will. I then removed all the pieces of metal, and, before the last was taken off, the whole attack was renewed. In two or three minutes it had reached the height of the most violent paroxysm; but, on the reaplication of the pieces of metal, it ceased a second time, as if it had been dispelled by the breath of a superior power. However, from five to ten minutes more of perfect calm under the influence of the metals were required before a general inaction and relaxation of the limbs, preceded by a general shuddering and a chattering of the teeth, satisfied me that I might remove all the metal." "Oh! that day," said Dr. Burq to us, "my joy was great: and my gratitude to mesmerism as complete as the action of the metal that it had been the



means of my learning ; and from that time brass armatures were applied to all mesmeric subjects ;

"1. For the purpose of dispensing with constantly watching them in their mesmeric state, and for enabling a stranger to liberate them from all accidents during or after their sleep.

"2. To awake them without my intervention, and with much more certainty than I could even do so myself.

"3. To put an end to the greater part of the nervous attacks of persons susceptible of mesmerism.

"But was brass applicable to every body ? (I shall mention farther on that only those hypochondriacal, hysterical, and neuralgic patients are the better for it who are susceptible of the mesmeric influence) and can this metal, which before 1849 I had never ventured to suppose more than a palliative, effect a cure ? What would be its effects upon the spasms of cholera, of tetanus, epilepsy, and neuralgia ?

"I had succeeded so far and was thus hoping, when, in February, 1849, the cholera\* broke out in the Salpêtrière.

\* "The disease appears to have obtained this absurd name from the sudden appearance of vomiting, purging, and spasms in it, just as in true *cholera* ; the totally different nature of the matter discharged, and the various peculiarities which shew it to be a specific disease and not a merely inordinate natural secretion, being overlooked. But, as it entirely suppresses the bile, and also is a specific affection, we surely should no longer call it *bile-flow*, and should give it a distinct appellation. Even the term *leucorrhœa* would be far more appropriate than *cholera*, which signifies the very opposite to fact ; but this term is already engaged. *Acholia* (nulla bilis) is a good Greek word, and harmonizes with a characteristic fact. *Asiatic acholia* might be thought still more designative." There is a disease of the lungs which is just as absurdly called *apoplexy*. "The lungs can no more be affected with apoplexy than with dyspepsia. Apoplexy is a loss of all sense and voluntary motion,—a suspension of the functions of the brain. This may arise from debility, poisons, pressure by bone, serum, or blood, &c. But, because, in fatal cases of the disease, we sometimes find that congestion and effusion of blood have been the source of the *symptoms* called apoplexy, circumscribed congestions and effusions of blood in the lungs have been strangely termed apoplexy. The condition appears in all respects so exactly what we call ecchymosis, if near the surface of the body or in membranes, that, rather than coin a new name, I would term it ecchymosis of the lungs." If these appearances are observed in the dissection of any organ, they are now termed *apoplexy* !

I wonder that any sensible man can sanction such a senseless and confusing designation. When air exists in the thorax outside the lungs, the disease is called *pneumo-thorax* : a term signifying lung and thorax, not air and thorax : a nerve which unites with the lung and stomach is correctly called *pneumo-gastric*. The name for air in the thorax should be *pneumato-thorax* ; just as certain air-tumors are correctly called *pneumato-cele*, and *pneumat-omphalos* : and we say also *varico-cele*, *sarco-cele*, *hepato-cystic*, *gastro-entritis*, *hemato-cele*, and say actually *PNEUMATO-CELE*.

Another splendid instance of absurd medical nomenclature is the designation of red, solidified, lung by the word *hepatization*, as though, because the lung has become solid and red like liver, it were converted into liver.

See my paper "on the Medicinal properties of Creosote," in the *Transactions of the Roy. Medical and Chirurgical Society*, vol. xix. : 1835.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

This scourge, after having been confined for some days to that great hospital, spread all over Paris: and every other hospital was soon filled with victims. The first patient attacked with cholera who was given to me for experiments in the Hospital Cochin was a strong and vigorous man, who had risen in the morning in as perfect health as usual. When carried to the hospital at three o'clock in the afternoon, he was already blue, his extremities were cold, the characteristic evacuations were profuse, and the cramps of his legs intense.

"In the evening two warm baths and various frictions had produced no effect upon the cramps. Guided by the effect of the metal in the artificial mesmeric cramps, I placed a large copper ring at the highest point of the affected parts. The muscles instantly relaxed, and the patient left off complaining. After a most satisfactory calm for half an hour, I endeavoured to remove the ring: but the cramps and pains instantly returned, and the patient implored me to apply it again. His wish was no sooner gratified than he again ceased to complain.

"A little later, during the night, the arms were attacked with violent spasms. The patient very wisely seized one of the rings which were upon his legs, and, not being able to apply it on account of its shape, he for several hours followed the cramps with it wherever they went. The metal did not fail to produce its effect; and, what is well worth noticing, the right arm, it being the right hand which was used on this occasion, was not seriously affected till fatigue compelled the patient to take the metal in his left.

"At the morning visit, having become calm and being much better, he was loud in his praises of the blessed virtue of the armature."

On the same day, Dr. Burq ordered a large number of brass rings to be made, and, not content with employing them in the hospital where they were first employed, he went day and night, as long as the cholera lasted, to the great hospitals in order to shew the method of using them—*Val de Grace*, the *Hôtel Dieu*, the *Salpêtrière*. Whenever the armatures were properly employed, they were so serviceable that Professor Rostan in his clinical lectures upon cholera recommended them, from having seen them almost always successful against the nervous phenomena peculiar to this scourge.

The *Hospital Gazette* of November 8, 1849, stated that the surgeons of Val de Grace, as well as the physicians who were sent into the provinces, eagerly forwarded the strongest proofs of their success to the minister and to the academies.

Even two of the latter, in a report to the National Academy of Medicine in October, 1849, declared "that in one department of the *Haute-Marine* the armatures under their care had become so popular that, as soon as the cholera appeared in a family, the relatives or friends, who were nearly all working cutlers, made an armature at once of a band of melchior, copper, zinc, or nickel, which they generally had by them in large quantity; and applied it immediately without waiting for a medical man."\*

During the whole period of the epidemic of 1849, Dr. Burq, being much occupied with cholera patients, had little time to continue his original researches; yet, finding a few opportunities for the practice of mesmerism, he made a new application of his metals.

A mesmeric patient presented herself who had been subject to natural sleep-waking from infancy. She had frequently left her bed in the night and made dangerous excursions and done the most difficult things in her sleep. As brass completely arrested her artificial sleep-waking, four brass rings were applied upon her limbs when she went to bed; and, from that time she slept without any chance of another attack.

But how little have we yet said of the improvements which we shall derive from mesmerism in the treatment of affections of the nervous system!

When the cholera had disappeared, Dr. Burq began to spread the knowledge of his experiments upon hysterical patients; and, not being contented with isolated cases, he applied for and obtained permission to transfer his metallic arsenal to the Salpêtrière, which is an immense receptacle of all kinds of incurables. There, in one vast building, are hundreds of unhappy females, some still young, whom the most terrible diseases, as well as poverty, have placed under the charge of public charity. For these ordinary medical treatment can do nothing, and they live apart in this asylum, visited hastily by a physician, whose office it is to notice any dangerous complaint with which any of them may be seized. For them there is no hope: no domestic bliss! Their diseases are kept up by their injurious influence upon each other; and hardly three or four quit this tomb of the living in the course of ten years.

\* As a last proof of the benefit of Dr. Burq's method of arresting the cramps of those seized with cholera, it may be mentioned that, at the suggestion of the Paris Board of Health, the minister who had already rewarded the exertions of Dr. Burq with a medal, presented him in 1850 with a sum of money to indemnify him in some degree for the expense which he had incurred in armatures.

"It is lamentable," says Dr. Burq, "to see sometimes ten or twenty of these wretched beings confined by very strong bands, to which they are accustomed early to submit, all calling out at once, roaring, foaming, twisting themselves about, and struggling against the resistance which is opposed to them and frequently in vain."

The disorders of the place are so horrifying that the hospital board admits officials only: and Dr. Burq, though accustomed to such diseases, required several days before he was habituated to this novel sight. One moment he hesitated and despaired of doing such poor creatures any good: and required nothing less than the recollection of the unfortunate patient in the *Hôpital Cochin*, and a most useful amount of firmness, to have the courage to modestly offer to replace the straight jackets and all other forcible means of restraint with his armatures. He proposed them not as curative, but as palliative: the possibility of cures he never thought of.

His first trials were unsuccessful. Being surrounded by *epileptic* patients, and having but too many to select from, he made his first trials upon them. But the armatures produced no effect, and paroxysms continued equally in spite of the rings. Finding no reason to hope for success among them, he directed his measures to hysterical cases only.

What is unhappily one of the worst circumstances in all hospitals which, like the Salpêtrière, contain an assemblage of every variety of convulsive diseases, irritation, or other causes, had already exerted its too fatal influence and caused epilepsy to supervene in almost every case which had been simple hysteria at its admission. Dr. Burq, however, being obliged to make a choice among those who were offered to him, selected five from the most severely affected with convulsions—Valois, Verderet, Lh—,\* Peffert, and Sylvain. All of them, though the eldest was not 30 years of age, had been long in the Salpêtrière, and almost every week, for two, three, or four days successively, they were in what is termed a bad state—in which hysteria, madness, and epilepsy, shared in turn their wretched existence, and made it necessary to confine them in separate cells.

A most interesting fact, which will be mentioned very particularly in the course of this article, was that in these five patients, just as in so many other hysterical patients who were examined subsequently, both general and special sensibility had undergone great changes, and that all complained

\* This person, having left the hospital and belonging to respectable family, is designated by initials only.

of a greater or less diminution of strength. Thus Lh—— and Sylvain, who suffered more than the rest, had, and especially Sylvain, scarcely any sensibility in some parts of the trunk, had lost the perception of even the position of their lower extremities, and possessed no longer any trace of the sense of touch, taste, or smell. Sylvain, in addition, was semiparalyzed as to motion, and obliged to be almost always in the recumbent position.\*

The first trials were made in these unfavourable circumstances. We will not give all his details, but limit ourselves to the general results.

The armatures employed in these experiments were plates of brass (the only metal used by him up to that period), composed of two rings four or five inches broad,—one for each limb, a crown for the head, and two large plates for the trunk that were united before and behind by a steel spring to facilitate their application.

From the 10th of November to the end of the following December, the metal was seldom applied except at the moment of an hysterical attack, or during the usual precursory symptoms.

In two patients, Valois and Verderet, the first effects were as immediate and varied as those in the female whom he had thus treated in the *Hôpital Cochin*; and the cessation and return, general or partial, but immediate, of the convulsions was produced at pleasure.

In the third patient, Miss Lh——, the action of the metal, though not less evident, was sometimes incomplete, especially in the cataleptic state which so often accompanied her hysteric paroxysm. But in her, as in the two preceding, there were also, as was expected, purely epileptic paroxysms.

The fourth, Peffert, obtained a slight diminution only of the violence and duration of her attacks: and in the fifth, Sylvain, who sometimes had very violent spasms in the chest and sometimes formidable attacks, the brass had no effect, at whatever time and in whatever way it was applied.

The metal was never capricious, and its effects were invariably the same; so that the three first patients, being accustomed to see their attacks dispelled, seldom neglected to apply the armature at the least threatening of a paroxysm; and the two latter, Peffert and Sylvain, after having made every effort to obtain the same relief, gave up the metals altogether.

\* Dr. Burq remarks that he never met with a case of epilepsy, pure and quite without the combination of hysteria or hypochondriasis, in which such a partial functional disturbance existed.

At this period, a sixth patient, Miss Sequerlay, who had been many months in the infirmary of the building on account of almost constant nervous vomitings and a paraplegia of the same kind, and, being more epileptic than the others, had not succeeded in inducing Dr. Burq to try the metals with her, took up the armature of her neighbour Sylvain, and, as much from curiosity perhaps as jealousy, put them on several times in the night without the knowledge of any person.

"In a few days," writes Dr. Burq, "she told me what she had done, and said, probably, I thought, to excuse herself, that she was decidedly better for it. I almost laughed in my sleeve at her *harmless efforts*, and, without encouraging her, allowed her to continue the use of the armature.

"However, a month had scarcely elapsed from the time that the three first had begun to employ the armatures, before their attacks seemed less frequent and shorter. Being curious to ascertain the effect of the brass upon the anæsthesia, the extent and intensity of which began to seem always in proportion to the violence and frequency of the hysteric paroxysms, I remarked, though without paying much attention to the fact at first, that this metal, just as in the mesmeric sleep, soon restored the sensibility, first in the spot to which it was applied and then in the neighbouring parts; so that, after a crisis which had taken place entirely under the application of the rings, the tingling succeeding the attack, just as in the patient in the Hospital Cochin, invariably indicated that all the parts in which it was decidedly experienced had become sensible, and these were especially the parts which had lost their sensibility before the application.

"Equally as in mesmeric anæsthesia, it was of no importance what was the extent of surface or the locality of the application of the metal: the effect was as rapid whether a mere thimble were employed or a large ring. The sole difference was in the extent of its action."\*

At the end of December an accidental circumstance caused the suspension of Dr. Burq's experiments. When the patients learnt this, they feared that it would be of long continuance, and were greatly distressed: nor were they comforted till they received a positive assurance from him that he would soon return, and witnessed the pains which he took to leave the armatures with them. He had no need to advise

\* For more details consult a letter addressed by Dr. Burq to the *Academy of Sciences*, and published in the *Medical Gazette* of Paris for February, 1850, entitled *Note pour servir à l'étude des effets physiologiques et thérapeutiques des armatures métalliques, ou de l'influence des métaux sur la Paralyse nerveuse.*

them to make use of the armatures. Being accustomed to find relief from them, the poor women were the first to believe in their curative powers,—a sweet illusion, which Dr. Burq had not the courage to dissipate, though he did not believe that the improvement was more than a coincidence—and, as soon as one of them was seized with an attack, her friends ran to her and applied them.

“After an absence of six weeks I returned,” says Dr. Burq, “to the Salpêtrière, supposing that my patients, like the unfortunate man in the fable, who was never further from obtaining his object than when he fancied himself on the point of success, had fallen back into their original condition. But what was my astonishment on finding that, by means of three or four fresh applications for some hours, the three hysterico-epileptic patients, Verderet, Valois, and Lh—, who, when I first attended them, passed scarcely a day without an attack, had seldom been ill since I left, and began to talk of leaving the Salpêtrière; and that Sequerlay, who had found her spasms and attacks disappear and at the same time the power of her limbs return, had not experienced any attack of vomiting during the time, and, having become one of the strongest women in her division of the establishment, was employed in servant’s work. Miss Lh—, being better educated than the others, shewed me an accurate register of the cases; and I found that there had been a few unimportant spasms only, and but one nervous attack, and that this had been excited in Valois by an act of violence! What was still better, the epileptic attacks, as I have already said, although they at first took place even under the use of the armatures, were hardly to be found in the register: and Lh— was the only one who had enjoyed the sad privilege of experiencing three or four attacks.

“All these patients, who,—there was no possibility of denying it,—were now advancing to their cure, ascribed this to the increase of muscular power, that was so remarkable in Sequerlay: and I at once began to examine the condition of their sensibility. These poor girls, in whose skin and mucous membranes, with the exception of Sequerlay,\* I, two months previously, stuck pins with impunity,” (whose skin and mucous membranes I *larded*, would be the exact translation,) “suffered pain now from the least pinching or pricking: their senses were all perfect: and I could no longer force a spoon

\* This patient was the first in whom my attention was directed to the proportion between the painful phenomena and the diminution of moving power when the sensibility has undergone little or no diminution: and in truth, although hysterical in the highest degree, she had scarcely experienced any loss of the latter.

far into their mouths, or a feather into their nostrils, without exciting vomiting, or sneezing and a flow of tears.

"Struck with these new facts, I examined Sylvain, Peffert, and several other patients whom I had already studied. None of them had improved, and all were as destitute of feeling as before. It was evident that this want of feeling, common in hysteria and consequently in all the forms of nervous affections that hysteria comprehends, was, just as in the mesmeric sleep, the most important phenomenon, and in some measure the base, of the disease,—that it is a new means of measure, a kind of *nervous pulse*, calculated to shew us the degree of the affection; and that, as it had always been impossible to act upon the nervous disease without acting upon the anæsthesia also, the metal-cure ought to employ it in the first instance as a touchstone for indicating the propriety of using the metal.

"Why, therefore, all these expensive and troublesome trials upon an hysterical patient in convulsions? Ought not a little brass plate, a simple brass thimble, placed, for example, upon an anæsthetic patient, to indicate the treatment as satisfactorily as a complete armature? and is not the restoration of sensibility by the metal in a preliminary trial (I might add, of motility likewise, as we shall find further on) sufficient to satisfy us of our power over the convulsions and the whole nervous affection?

"In order to obtain a positive proof of this, I made fresh experiments upon other hysterical patients; and those—and those only—were all liberated from their attacks, in whom the metal restored the sensibility. The more intense and rapid the action of the brass upon the anæsthesia, the more effect had this metal upon the spasms, convulsions, and hysterical pains.

"But, although many hysterical patients in that division recovered their sensibility by means of the brass, many others, as well as Sylvain and Peffert, remained equally insensible after its application as before. In vain I changed the time, direction, and mode of my examination: the result was always negative.

"Taking Sylvain as a type of this resistance, I did not attempt to interfere with her attacks, but directed my efforts to restore sensibility by local applications of the brass. But, whatever was the surface, the polish, the moisture or dryness of the metal, its electric or non-electric state, by the superposition in the former case of a plate of zinc or the addition of the wire of one of the poles of a galvanic pile in action, I obtained no result. Aware of the importance of the problem



which in that patient was expressed thus by the formula—‘GIVEN AN HYSTERICAL AFFECTION, TO FIND THE MEANS OF RESTORING THE SENSIBILITY,’ I worked at its solution; almost even in my sleep. But in vain: Sylvain continued insensible to all my prickings. Yet never was the solution of a problem more easy. The road to it was traced out beforehand. Mesmerism pointed it out, and I had only to follow it. Had not many circumstances shewn me that, in the mesmeric sleep, a different metal from copper would influence the anæsthesia of one patient and not affect the sensibility of another; and *vice versa*? so that gold, for instance, which yesterday had no effect upon the latter, completely mesmerised the former to-day? Why, therefore, continue blindly attempting to obtain the same good effects? and how, in spite of, or rather on account of, the good effects which mesmerism had procured for me, could I, who was hardly quite liberated from the prejudices of yesterday, have such faith in its powers and incessantly make demands upon it, as a spoiled child does upon its indulgent mother?

“I thus continued to neglect its indications, when, one morning, March 2, 1850,—a day too important to the future progress of the metal-cure for me ever to forget it—I found Sylvain sewing for me with a steel needle.

“Having a long needle with me, as indeed I now always had, and which, as well as the dynamometer, I now use even more than most practitioners use their watch for counting the pulse, I thought I would ascertain the degree of her sensibility under the influence of this fresh metal. I pricked her rather sharply, and she, not less astonished than myself, withdrew her hand suddenly, complained of an acute pain, and then wiped away a drop of blood which appeared at the wound.\* Farther prickings made more carefully upon the same finger were perfectly felt, especially in the neighbourhood of the steel, although the insensibility continued in the other fingers. I changed the situation of the steel thimble; but, wherever I placed it, the pain of a wound was felt in from eight to ten minutes. If copper thimbles instead of the steel were placed upon the finger, or upon the fingers which

\* A very remarkable fact, proving incontestibly the influence of the metal upon the capillary circulation by means of the nervous system, is, that the pricked wounds of anæsthetic patients, which, however deep, give no blood, do bleed when copper or steel has restored nervous power to the spot and brought back its sensibility to the healthy state. The common return of the catamenia after the application of a suitable metal to the lower stomach or lower extremities (examples of this will be given farther on), is sufficient practically to prove this influence.

had remained insensible, the insensibility returned in the former, and no change occurred in the latter.

"Delighted with this result, but not venturing to believe too much, I requested the house-pupil to verify it with me : and the experiment succeeded with him as perfectly as with me.

"Two days afterwards, reasons, which I will not mention that I may not reveal the unprecedented brutality or jealousy of a professional brother, compelled me to quit the Salpêtrière, without having had time to try the effects of a steel armature upon Sylvain, or to continue my investigations with the four other patients,\* whose cure was thus most inhumanly prevented. But I had now discovered all the indications afforded by mesmerism that up to that time had so unfortunately been unnoticed ; and my discovery was complete. It would be evident in future that when brass, or even steel, fails, other metals ought to be tried—copper, German steel, gold, silver, platinum, &c., either pure or alloyed, which all occupy the same place in the scale of electric conductors as the two former ; and that we ought not to despair of the metal-cure till all the metals and all their known alloys, and all those which I myself could imagine, have been tried in vain.

"One thing, however, was wanting ; and the following is the way in which I learnt it.

"After I had left the Salpêtrière, I prosecuted my experiments in the great *Hôtel Dieu*, where the recollection of my measures with the cholera patients obtained me a very handsome reception by the medical heads of the establishment.

"Fresh patients were given to me there, and soon a committee of the Academy, consisting of Professors Berard, Cloquet, and Jules Guérin, did me the honour of witnessing my treatment and experiments.

"One day I presented to the committee one of Dr. Rostan's patients, labouring under intense hysteria with *paraplegia* and almost universal anæsthesia. I had examined her carefully, and being certain that *English steel flings* would restore her sensibility, I ventured to promise a speedy cure. The committee fixed another meeting : but, on this occasion, alas ! and in vain, I varied the trials of steel, and then employed other metals. She was scarcely at all relieved ;

\* One of them, Miss Lh——, whose recovery continued perfect, returned to her family in two months. I do not know what became of the three others : but I greatly fear that, remaining in the Salpêtrière, they have relapsed into their former state.

the sensibility alone was a little modified, and the *palsy of the lower extremities continued nearly the same.*

"This check shewed me that the metal might have no action on motility, although it acted evidently upon the sensibility;\* and distinctly pointed out the propriety of not limiting our examination of the effects of metals to anæsthesia only.

"A few days afterwards, however, another mishap occurred in nearly the same circumstances that deserves to be mentioned.

"There was an hysterical and paraplegic patient in the same division of the hospital. English steel had been selected after two trials upon the lower extremities; and as it had produced a good effect upon the sensibility and motility both which were greatly impaired, I thought myself justified in giving a very favourable *prognosis* to the committee. But, after the application of the steel to the limbs, *which I had neglected to examine previously*, I was greatly mortified at finding the paraplegia continue, as well as most of the nervous phenomena.

"These two successive checks, which would have seriously injured my discovery but for a large number of successful cases, had the good effect of bringing me to this wise and strict conclusion, which it had been impossible to foresee,—  
'THAT IN A NERVOUS AFFECTION WITH ANÆSTHESIA AND AMYOSTHESIA, we ought not to pronounce upon the efficacy of the metallic treatment till we have acquired the threefold assurance, not of the perfect action of the metal upon the sensibility and motility of the upper extremities only, but of the lower also, especially if the latter are completely palsied.'

"When the suitable metal has been *ascertained*, there is no nervous affection," says Dr. Burq, "which can resist its general application during some hours daily for a week or a fortnight, at the times most favourable to the patient—at night, for example—with a few suitable necessary directions as to regimen, and the observation of the causes which gave rise to the disease."

In the next number will be given the authentic proofs which Dr. Burq has collected to substantiate so important an assertion; and likewise his doctrine of the anæsthesia and amyosthesia of nervous diseases, together with the means which he employs to ascertain their different degrees.

\* Dr. Pierre, a house-pupil of the *Hôtel Dieu* at the time, has published a case of hysteria treated with metals, in which case English steel had no effect except upon one portion of the insensible parts, whereas silver with  $\frac{1}{10}$  of alloy restored the sensibility throughout.

His second memoir, entitled, *Mesmerism illustrated by the Metals*, will shew the remarkable relation which he has discovered between the effects of brass and those of mesmerism, and the method of accurately ascertaining by means of this and other metals, without previous mesmerising, the degree of mesmeric susceptibility in different individuals.

(End of the First Part.)

II. *Cure of long-standing and intense Palsy and Debility, after the failure of all the routine measures in the hands of eminent men.* By Dr. MOTHERWELL, of Australia. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"*Origin of Life.* By JAMES MORISON, the Hygeist."—By this short treatise any person of common understanding may at once see why all the deadly poisons now used as medicines can never tend to cure any disease. Also, why all mental diseases should be treated like other complaints; and also why such fallacies as *mesmerism, electro-biology, homœopathy*, can never be of service as curative agents. As it is most important that all persons should be fully informed on these questions, the above treatise will be forwarded by post to all persons, on application at the British College of Health, New Road, London."—Advertisement in the *Daily News*, April 27, 1852.

"We regret that Dr. Carpenter should have lent himself to the promulgation of the *imbecile vagaries* of Dr. Henderson, and thus more completely than ever identified himself with the *follies of animal magnetism*. The countenance thus given to views so much in *opposition to true science*, is not only injurious to the scientific reputation of the individual entertaining them, but also to the public whom they mislead."—THOMAS WAKLEY, *Lancet*, March 20, 1852; p. 300.

To Dr. Elliotson.

Collins Street, Melbourne, Oct. 10, 1851.

My dear Sir,—If the following case of long-continued paralysis, successfully treated by mesmerism when all other means had failed, is worthy of publication in the pages of *The Zoist*, I shall feel obliged by your sending it to the editor. It might be the means of inducing some poor sufferer, similarly affected, to use this great remedial agent, and of opening the eyes of medical men to the curative powers of mesmerism. The invalid was under the care of Drs. Stokes and Goodshaw, and Mr. Cusack of Dublin, besides several other medical gentlemen there, who are all well acquainted with the case. His father was a Protestant clergyman in Ireland, known to the Bishop of Meath. He does not wish his name to appear in print, but has no objection to my giving it to you, or to your mentioning it to any person who wishes to enquire into the facts and authenticity of the case. I send you a note from him to that effect.

I first became acquainted with Mr. Henry L.— in August, 1849, when he embarked at Plymouth on board the

barque *Nelson* with his father, mother, and other members of his family, as passengers for Port Philip. I was surgeon-superintendent of the vessel. Mr. L. was then an helpless invalid. He was unable to walk or move his legs; he could not sit up; he was always carried up on the deck, or in and out of his cabin, by a servant. He was then about 20 years of age; and the history I heard of his case was, that, when about 11 years of age, he was first observed to suffer from obstinate constipation of the bowels: whence this arose could not be discovered. The parents were not cognizant of his ever having received any injury of the spine, though they remarked that he was very fond of jumping off high places. However, he began gradually to lose the power of his limbs. In spite of all the remedies that wealth could procure, or that medical skill could afford, this state of paralysis continued to progress. *Medicine usque ad nauseam, blisters, issues, homœopathy, galvanism, and electricity*, each had its trial and each failed. Change of climate—that “*dernier resort*” of medical men when they get tired of their patients—was recommended, and consequently the family embarked for this colony. When I first saw him at Plymouth, *I do not think I ever saw a living body in such an extreme state of attenuation*. Of adipose tissue there was none. The skin covered a mass of bones, ligaments, tendons, and some loose flabby flesh,—the remnants of a muscular system. The joints and extremities of the bones appeared large and prominent. He was obliged to be carried about. *He could not sit up. He could not raise his legs off the ground*, but could with an effort raise his arms. If he were held up erect, I should think that his height would have been upwards of six feet, and yet a man could almost span his thighs or the calves of his legs with his hand. His appetite was *very, very small*. His pulse ranged from 58 to 62 in a minute. His skin was *icy cold* and dry. The animal heat was very low. Sensibility was diminished,—he seemed not to feel the alternations of cold or heat that we all experienced during the voyage. The *mental power was weakened*. He would not read himself, and took little or no interest in what was read to him by others, or in any kind of amusement. He reclined all day in a state of listless apathy. During the voyage I tried to induce him to make some exertion. He used to make an effort, but the torpor of the brain and nervous system seemed insurmountable. I tried galvanism for about ten days during the voyage, and could produce muscular contractions in any part that I touched with the handles; but he had *lost all hope*, and the use of galvanism was given up. Thus he continued during the voyage and for

*twelve months after his arrival in this colony. The heat of this climate appeared to make him more languid. He grew, if possible, weaker. From the time of his arrival here he could not taste animal food: the very sight of it caused nausea. At length the little appetite he had began to fail. The stomach commenced to reject the small portion of farinaceous food which he used to exist upon, and he complained of a distressing weight at the epigastrium, and of a sensation of a ball rising up in the throat that made him most uncomfortable. In these circumstances he applied to me to try whether the use of galvanism over the stomach would give him any relief. I tried it without success.*

At that time I was mesmerising a young lady, who was clairvoyant, and from whom I had oftentimes obtained much useful information about diseases and their remedies.

Now, Sir, mark me, though a fully qualified medical and surgical practitioner, the profession to which I have the honour to belong may deem me weak-minded, or, if they choose, a charlatan, because I listen to what is told me by one in this clairvoyant condition. But, when I know that she is not practising any deceit, that the treatment suggested by her is rational, that it has been of benefit where other means used by myself and other practitioners have failed, I do not hesitate to adopt such treatment as she recommends, though she is ignorant of and wondering at the whence, how, or wherefore she obtains information, and speaks about subjects of which she knows nothing in the waking state.

I asked her one evening while mesmerised if she could then see Mr. L.: she had never seen him in her waking state. She said, "Yes; I see him lying on a couch: oh! so thin, and pale, and weak." I asked her, did she see any thing that would do him good. After a little time she replied, "I see bottles and medicines, but they all disappear again: they will do him no good. I see a box with a galvanic machine in it; it remains, but does not come close to him: I do not think it would do him any good at present. I see two hands mesmerising him, and after some time he appears to become brighter—to have a light round him; and the galvanic machine then comes closer to him: but I think it will be a long time before he would be fit to use it."\* I asked her, could she tell me what was the difference between the light from galvanism and that from mesmerism? and she said, "Why, the light from galvanism appears to go over the body—on its surface, and to go away sooner: but the light

\* On the figurative manner in which the ideas of clairvoyants frequently are conceived, see Dr. Elliotson's remarks in No. XXIV., pp. 372-5.—*Zoist*.

from the mesmerism appears to be of a more searching, penetrating nature, it goes *into* and *through* the body, and remains in it for a long time." I asked her, "Could his brother mesmerise him?" and she said, "I should think so." Accordingly his brother commenced to mesmerise him by making passes over him twice each day, and for half an hour at each time. I continued to use the galvanic machine with him. After a lapse of ten days I again asked her, could she see him, and if there were any change produced by the brother's mesmerising? She said that she saw him, but that the brother was not doing him any good,—that she saw him making the passes, but that no light was coming from him: he was thinking of something else. I then ceased to galvanize, and commenced to mesmerise him myself, *without* apprizing her of my intention to do so. I produced no effect upon him of which I was cognizant; but I asked her one evening to look at him, and tell me how he was getting on. She surprised me by saying, "Why, doctor, some other person has been mesmerising him. I see some light upon his head. Ah! I think you must have been mesmerising him." I then told her that I had; and she said, "Go on then, persevere, and you will do him good." Thus encouraged, I continued to mesmerise him for an hour daily for a period of five months. After the *first eight or ten days* the oppression about the epigastrium *ceased entirely*, and the disagreeable sensation of a ball rising in the throat was *not experienced*. After a few more days the temperature of the hands was increased, and the feel of the skin became *more natural and healthy*: slight perspiration began to appear upon the hands. Some time longer and his mother told me that she observed some moisture and warm perspiration upon his feet,—*what she had not seen for six years previous*.

I never could produce sleep: but I observed that after a time I produced nervous twitchings of the muscles about the forehead and eyes, afterwards of those about the lips. After some time longer the entire head used to be shaken violently and involuntarily. During this time the clairvoyant used to tell me that she saw the light going down through his body more and more every day. I began to get him to raise his arms over his head; then to raise a small weight in them; then to shove his legs out from him and draw them back again; then to raise them off the ground; at length to be able to put them on a chair.

Slowly, gradually, almost imperceptibly, this change was going on, and already three months had elapsed; the shaking of the head became more violent, until the whole body

participated in these irregular muscular contractions, and fits similar to epileptic were produced. These fits, which were at first only produced when I was present and mesmerising him, soon became more frequent and came on of their own accord. He had two in the day; then three; then four; and eventually as many as eight in the twenty-four hours. They lasted from fifteen to twenty minutes. During the time they were present he was quite unconscious.

About four months after I began to mesmerise him, he was attacked with a diarrhoea; and after a few days he passed off from his bowels some horribly fetid offensive matter, which the parents told me they could compare to nothing but putrid rotten flesh. After that he had a relish for animal food, and his appetite increased. The continuance of these fits was a great source of uneasiness to both his parents and himself. They were afraid that his mind would be eventually affected, and that these fits would continue for life. Never having heard or read of such an extreme case as this, I could not speak positively; but I told them that, from what I had read of some cases of epilepsy by Dr. Elliotson, it appeared that mesmerism occasionally increased the frequency of the fits for a time, and that the fits were to be regarded as favourable symptoms; and in his case, where there was such great torpor of the nervous system, my opinion was,—that mesmerism had brought on these fits—that they were increasing in frequency under its influence—and that, when sufficient tone had been given to the nervous system and the constitution generally, they would subside.

I must tell you that, when these fits were becoming frequent, I asked the clairvoyant one evening about them; and she said, "Let them go on, they are doing him good; do not be uneasy about them. I'll tell you, doctor, what I see. I look at him before one of these fits come on, and he appears heavy and dull. The heart is beating slowly and with difficulty, and the blood appears to be dark and thick and impure: but after the fit it appears more pure—to have more vitality in it, and the whole body seems then to be refreshed and invigorated by it."

When I had been mesmerising him about three months, she told me one evening that she saw the galvanic box had come quite close to him, and that she thought it would be now of service; so from that time I began to use galvanism in addition to the mesmerism.

I continued the mesmerism daily for more than five months, and sometimes twice in the day, until I became unwell myself, and, his family having removed to another resi-



dence, whence the roads to town were almost impassable during the winter months, I was obliged to omit the mesmerism for about a fortnight, when I was informed by his parents that the fits were becoming less frequent, and in a few days afterwards they entirely ceased. He continued to use the galvanism. I rode out to see him in about a week after the subsidence of the fits, and had been only a few minutes in his company when he fell off again into one of these fits: but he so dreaded their recurrence that I did not again visit him, though perfectly satisfied that they were of service to him, more especially as he always experienced a feeling of excitement and anxiety at the time of day when I used to mesmerise him, as if his system was craving for something that it could not obtain. Still, as I saw that the impulse towards amendment had been given; that its progress was slow indeed, but certain; that his appetite was improving; and that he was using every means in his power, so far as personal exertion would permit, to restore himself to health, I determined not again to visit him until he had more strength and was able to see me. Well, in a few weeks I heard that he was able to crawl about the floor like an infant: in another week he was able to raise himself from a sitting posture and stand on his legs: in a few days more he was able to walk some paces: and soon afterwards (about eight months from the time I commenced to mesmerise him) he was able to walk about unaided, without stick or crutch, or assistance of any kind.

In the statements made to me by the clairvoyant there were many circumstances worthy of note. When I first asked her about him and inquired if he would get well, she said that she saw him after being mesmerised a long time able to walk about unaided. I asked her what length of time? and she said she saw the figure 5, and that she thought it meant *five* months. I therefore concluded that, at the expiration of five months, he would be able to walk about. But, no; I was disappointed. He could not walk; and I have since thought, in explanation of the figure 5 which she saw, "could it (the figure 5) have reference to the time I continued to mesmerise him?"

Upon another occasion I asked her, could she see what was the cause or nature of his disease? She said she did not understand and was unable to describe perfectly what she saw: but that a white thing like a cord, which ran down the back, did not appear to be healthy—it seemed to be more dry than it ought to be; it was shrivelled up: and, said she, "Doctor, I think that there is something wrong here (point-

ing to the top of the head); that part does not appear to be like the rest of the brain." Now it is a remarkable fact that, in all his previous modes of treatment, after they had each been tried for some time, he ceased to have hope in their efficacy and relapsed into his usual listless apathy; whereas, after mesmerism had begun to have effect upon him, his hope and perseverance each day became more strongly developed. And now his habits are completely altered. He is anxious for his recovery, uses every exertion to promote it, rises early, and delights in being out moving about in the open air. It appears to me that mesmerism gave a stimulus and healthy tone to this defective portion of the brain, and the effect produced corroborates the remark of the clairvoyant.

Upon one or two occasions I tried the effect of mesmerised water upon him. I sent him by his brother what I told him was a bottle of medicine, with directions to take a wine-glassful twice in the day. No person knew that it was only mesmerised water, and the family were surprised to see that a fit was produced immediately after taking his medicine.\*

It would be impossible for me to speak in sufficiently eulogistic terms of the untiring, unremitting care of Mrs. L. during this long treatment. None but a fond and devoted mother could have endured the constant vigilance that she had to sustain. Her mental distress was indeed extreme at seeing her son working so frequently each day in these fits. I had told her not to allow him to be held or restrained while in them; and consequently she had always a mattress laid on the floor for him to be placed upon, and pillows and air-cushions about him, upon which he might beat his head, or thump his hands and arms without danger of hurting himself. Therefore, when the fit subsided, he had none of the pains and aches or straining of the muscles which are the result of strong men holding the patient while in the fit.

I was amused at an article, "What is Mesmerism?" in "*auld*" Ebony† for July, 1851. Poor old fellow, he is in his dotage.

Believe me, very truly yours,  
J. B. MOTHERWELL.

\* See a striking fact at p. 99.—*Zoist*.

† See No. XXXV., p. 274.—*Zoist*.

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### III. *A few words on "Electro-Biology."* By Mr. ROBERT EMMET CANE, Kilkenny. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"Electro-biology, mesmerism, and such like exposed, and the public mind disabused, by a treatise on the *Origin of Life*, which may be had, gratis, by post, on application to the BRITISH COLLEGE OF HEALTH, New Road, London.—MORISON. *Times*, April, 1852.

"The remarks on 'the recent innovations in the practice of medicine,' by Mr. Henry Meymott, are inadmissible in the columns of this journal. We cannot allow the LANCET to be made the channel for promulgating such *frauds and delusions* as homoeopathy and MESMERISM."—WAXLEY, *Lancet*, March 20, 1852; p. 300.

To Dr. Elliotson.

SIR,—On reading an article of Mr. Acland's in the April number of *The Zoist*, entitled the *Galvanic Disk Delusion dispelled*, it occurred to me that I had a few remarks to make on the same subject that might, perchance, be interesting to you or your readers.

I have had many opportunities of observing the *modus operandi* pursued by Dr. Darling in his experiments; and the first fact which influenced me strongly in favour of attributing to mesmerism the results produced was the observing of the strong concentration of will used by him when dealing with subjects whose susceptibility was not above the average. His entire aspect, under such circumstances, was that of a man *energizing* violently; his body was erect, lips compressed, and in fact every muscle in his frame appeared to be in a state of sustained action; and, when his experiments were concluded, I remarked that he was bathed in perspiration, and seemed occasionally to be in a pitiable state of bodily exhaustion. *During* the experiments he appeared to me to use distinct mesmeric passes; he always seconded his verbal assertion with some manual contact with the subject, unless in extremely susceptible cases; and he appeared to me to make use of a sudden downward pass before the face in almost every case where he desired to control the perceptions. I have myself since that used this sudden pass to produce the same results in individuals whom I had brought into the "biological" state *without any disk or pellet whatever*, and generally with success.

I mentioned this state of mental energy, and these quasi-mesmeric passes to Dr. Darling as so many reasons against assuming any other cause but mesmerism to be at the bottom of these effects; but, if I understood him rightly, he informed me that he was not aware of using any concentration of will whatever; only a positive and determined mode of making the suggestive assertion; and that the contact, and

what I conceived to be local mesmerisation, were merely for the purpose of heightening, by a local impression, the effect caused by the verbal suggestion. I also understood him to repudiate the existence of any galvanic virtue in the disk, and to consider it much according to your own view, merely as a means of tranquillizing and fixing the attention.

I am confirmed in considering this to be the purport of what Dr. Darling was kind enough to inform me on the subject, from an account I have heard, from a very intelligent friend, of his lectures in the Portobello Gardens in Dublin, where from some accident or other he was obliged to *experiment without the disks*; and the mode he pursued was *looking intently into the eyes of the subject, and making downward passes over his head and shoulders*. He was not at all so successful in Dublin as in other places—indeed his experiments are pretty generally considered a failure in that city—and this is again precisely what we should expect on the mesmeric theory, in consequence of the much greater expenditure of magnetic fluid which would be required to produce the same results on subjects who had not been previously prepared and tranquillized. While I am speaking of Dr. Darling, I may state that the most susceptible of his subjects I saw always complained of severe head-ache and uneasiness after his experiments; I have since acted on the same party by my hand and eye, and *no uneasiness whatever followed*. This certainly is an argument against the disk.

It is but fair to state, while I am speaking of Dr. Darling, that I found him most gentlemanly and polite, and disposed to accommodate me in every respect in my inquiries.

After this I attended several of Mr. Stone's lectures in Dublin, and I was the more confirmed in believing this so-called electro-biology to be simply *mesmerism in the waking state*. Mr. Stone appeared to me to be a more powerful magnetizer than Dr. Darling, and hence not to require the same amount of energetic concentration of will to produce his results; but he also used mesmeric processes very distinctly. Besides the local passes and touches I have alluded to, Mr. Stone's injunction to his subjects, when at first disappointed in obtaining any result, is, "Look into my eye, Sir;" and then follows that steady collected glance, which no mesmerist needs a description of. Mr. Stone stated in the last lecture he gave in Dublin that a galvanic battery would be the most effective means of inducing the "biological state," but, as that would be rather inconvenient and bulky for carrying about, the galvanic disk was used as a substitute. These are as nearly his words as I can recollect them; they are certainly

equivalent to what he said. He then stated, however, that the same results would be produced by gazing in the prescribed manner at a piece of paper, or in fact at *any* fixed object; and he wound up by giving us the "*secret divulged*" of the "pressure on the ulnar nerve," and by disposing of a goodly number of his disks at, I believe, the price of a shilling each!

When I myself first commenced the study of "electro-biology," I was unable to procure disks: so I prepared the subjects by fixedly gazing into their eyes and making passes downwards over the head and shoulders; and in this way I obtained averagely successful results. This certainly looked most suspiciously like mesmerism, and the following occurrence which happened with one of Dr. Darling's most impressible subjects, M. M., removed almost any doubts I had as to the identity of it and "biology." I happened on one occasion to see this M. M. standing in a very unsleeplike position, and the thought struck me that I would see how far I could influence him magnetically in opposition to his will. So I at once looked fixedly into his eyes, and commenced making passes in the manner I have described. However, after about ten minutes spent in this manner, although the clock-work descent of the eyelids described by Mr. Townshend had commenced, I gave up the process, fearing that, owing to the unquestionable and decided mental opposition he was giving me, the setting him asleep would occupy more time than I could then conveniently spare. At that moment it occurred to me that this would not be a bad case to test the theory of "biology" on, as with about the same amount of preparation I had before produced its results. But *then* the preparation was given with the *declared intention of rendering the party susceptible to suggestion*; here it was given with the declared purpose of causing the magnetic sleep. So I made before his face the sudden downward pass I have spoken of, and said to him, "The ground is burning hot." The suggestion immediately took effect. I afterwards attempted other results of suggestion on him with success.

This was pretty strong evidence; the same cause producing both effects. It now only remained to prove the effects themselves almost identical—and I believe I was some time afterwards enabled to do this. Here you must allow me to digress for a little space.

From the amount of observation it has been in my power to make, I should be inclined to enumerate four stages of mesmeric effect:—1st. That which is named electro-biology.

2nd. Common mesmeric sleep. 3rd. Trance-waking. 4th. Clear vision of distant things. I know little of the last—nothing of any higher stages; and I even give this classification with very great diffidence, owing to my limited opportunities of observation. All know what is implied by the term "electro-biology," which I call my first stage. My second degree is a deep sleep, in which the patient is generally susceptible to suggestive impressions. I have several facts inclining me to think that the phenomena termed phreno-mesmerism are *peculiar* to this stage, and hence I am rather inclined to believe those phenomena to depend on suggestion, than on any exoteric action on the brain.\* The third degree is trance-waking, where the subject speaks in his own character,† and in which the phenomena of traction, rigidity, and community of sensation are capable of being produced. When this state is fully induced, I have not been able to produce phreno-magnetic results. The fourth stage is as yet so little known that I omit it for the present. The difficulty in classifying mesmeric phenomena is, that the stages are not separated by a distinct and strongly marked limit; they glide into one another, as it were. Mixtures of the second and third, and of the third and fourth stages are not uncommon; and I shall have to say a little just now on a mixture of the first and second.

To return to my subject. I had a mesmeric subject in Dublin, named J. P., whom I often threw into what I have called the second stage in about two minutes. Laying my fingers on his eyes, I would then tell him he was Dr. Channing, Dr. Elliotson, O'Connell, any one, and that he would have to deliver a speech immediately; or something of that sort: and he would immediately set about doing so. I could vary the nature of his discourse by exciting different organs: but the original suggestion ruled all. I placed his arms extended, and told him he could not move them: he would move about vigorously, but admit his inability to stir *them*. On my removing my fingers from his eyes, all ceased and he was again in a heavy and unbroken sleep. This case was somewhat similar to some of those Mr. Acland describes; and it proves that the effects of suggestion can be produced in the

\* They are in some cases clearly the result of suggestion: but in others clearly mesmeric, as shewn by me in No. III., pp. 240-4. The mesmeric excitement of distinct cerebral organs is possible not in this stage only, but in all the states excepting deep coma; and even in the common normal waking state (see No. XII., p. 481): and so are traction, rigidity, &c., &c., and suggestion.—J. ELLIOTSON.

† The patient sometimes has an hallucination and fancies himself to be another person.—J. E.

*sleeping* as well as in the *waking* state, and thus tends to break down that arbitrary distinction between mesmerism and biology which Mr. Stone would have us take for granted.

Some time afterwards I lost sight of this individual; but lately, being at one of Mr. Stone's lectures while he was acting on a soldier among the audience, over whom he had previously established his power, I was struck with a resemblance in the gait and expression of this man to that which J. P. had in the unconscious state. I cried out, "All right," to him pretty loudly, but he did not seem to hear me; indeed, but for the open state of his eyes, I might have believed that he was altogether in this second stage I have spoken of. As it was, I would say he was in an intermediate degree between my first and second stages.

I have thus, Sir, seen those phenomena of suggestion as well in the sleeping as in the waking state; and produced as well by the usual mesmeric means of passes and gazing as by staring at the loud-sounding disk: and am I not then justified in holding this "electro-biology" to be, not a manifestation of nature distinct from mesmerism, but merely a more easily produced species, or first stage, of it?

In concluding, Sir, allow me to express to you my sincere admiration of your abilities and courage, and of your stern devotion to the cause of truth, and to remain,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT EMMET CANE.

Kilkenny, Ireland, April 20th, 1852.

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*Note by Dr. Elliotson: including a letter from Mr. Joseph Aylicieff.*

I beg to communicate to you a letter from Mr. Joseph Aylicieff, whose experiments I alluded to in No. XXXIII., p. 111. He was told of the method by a person who had learnt it from Mr. Dods: and, as he practised without quackery, using no disks, not talking of electricity, not pressing particular parts, not pretending to any sort of secret, and therefore not attempting to extract money from the ignorant by pretending he had any secret to sell, I forward his letter with great pleasure.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

"St. Mary Cray, March 21st, 1852.

"Sir,—Having attended a small party at Farnborough,—a village about three miles from this place,—and my success being of an unprecedented nature, I am induced to forward you the particulars thereof. I tried my powers upon seven-

teen individuals of both sexes, and succeeded in impressing thirteen of the number, taking each person separately, and not all of them in a body, as generally practised. Seven individuals were labouring under the fancied effects of intoxication at the same moment, exhibiting various peculiarities and different stages of its effects: three were in a deep sleep, insensible to *sound* or *feeling* when pinched, pricked, and subjected to various tests at the discretion of the audience: the other four, amongst whom was the son of the medical gentleman, Dr. Fowler, were completely helpless, unable to articulate distinctly, partially raising themselves and again falling down in ridiculous positions. The whole were aroused instantaneously by a word and sudden stamp on the floor by myself. Not one of these persons had I had any previous interview or communication with. They were principally *strong, robust, and healthy*. Twelve I controlled so that they could not move an inch from the wall, I having requested them to place themselves in a line before me. Then I caused each to fall in a stiffened state towards me. Much amusement was occasioned by some of them ringing a hand-bell and being unable to stop the motion: smoking the handle of it under the impression of its being a cigar, pipe, &c.: by my affecting their sense of personal identity, causing them to ride chairs as imaginary horses, to suffer excruciating pains, perspiration to start on their face. Indeed I used every experiment I could think of, arresting them in the act of leaving the room, compelling them to resume their seats, and to assert their thorough conviction of the truths of mesmerism. I was warmly applauded, and invited to attend the following week.

"I know not whether to attribute my success to the previous spreading of fame, or to a power of determination I feel increasing upon every occasion that arises for gaining converts to the extraordinary power of mental influence.

"Three of my subjects were *agricultural labourers of strong and vigorous frames*. In three public trials I have produced the effects on 27 individuals out of 40.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
"To Dr. Elliotson."

"JOSEPH AYLIEFF.

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#### IV. *The Roman Catholic Priesthood and Mesmerism.* By ANTI-GLORIOSO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

Rue Richelieu, Paris, May 3rd, 1852.

SIR,—I was glad to perceive, that in your last number,



p. 100, you referred to a misapprehension which is unfortunately somewhat prevalent, viz., that the employment of mesmerism, as a remedial agent, is expressly forbidden in the Church of Rome. There can be no greater mistake. Certain statements and opinions, and certain assumed facts, (which statements, opinions and facts were both erroneous in themselves, and built on most erroneous data,) were communicated to the highest ecclesiastical authorities, and the question was asked,—“Is this system right, and are we permitted to make use of such a power?” The answer was—“By no means, *accordingly as you represent it; (proux exponitur)* for, if your representation be correct, the art is clearly illicit.” Now that was simply the nature of the response which was given. A false or incorrect account is rendered of a science,—and then the authorities are interrogated as to its propriety and legality. It is clear that the answer is conditional,—i. e., contingent upon the picture which is painted being a faithful portraiture. It need hardly be added, that the representation was a distorted caricature,—some such a description as that which M’Neile and “Charlotte Elizabeth” formerly put forth in the Protestant Church.

It is, therefore, important that it should be well understood that it is in this sense and with these qualifications that numerous members of the Church of Rome receive the official answer. Several ecclesiastics have given, and continue to give, their warmest sanction to mesmerism. They conceive rightly enough that the answer of Cardinal Casaracane does not touch the real merits of mesmerism in the slightest degree. Among the most eminent of its friends may be numbered, as you justly mention in your note, the eloquent Dominican Preacher—the Abbé Lacordaire. A more distinguished name can hardly be referred to in all Paris: and perhaps it may not be unpleasant to some of your readers, especially to those of the Roman Catholic persuasion, to receive some testimony corroborative of your assertion.

I was passing, not long ago, down a *passage* which leads into the *Rue Vivienne*, when my eyes were attracted by an *affiche* at a bookseller’s stall, announcing a sermon by Le Père Lacordaire on the subject of Magnetism. I went in, and purchased the book, in which it was contained, entitled, “*Le Monde Occulte ou Mystères du Magnétisme, Précédé d’une Introduction sur le Magnétisme par Le Père Lacordaire.* Par Henri Delaage.” The book contains a good deal of useful matter, and a large amount of insufferable trash. The tricks and impositions of professional *somnambules* are well exposed, and some new and curious anecdotes connected with the

unrivalled *clairvoyant* Alexis are also given : but sundry wild notions about spiritualism, the "mysteries of eternity," and the revelations of Cahagnet's dreamers, shew so clearly the main tendencies of the writer that a further analysis of his opinions would be quite unnecessary. The interesting passage in the book is the introduction relating to the Abbé Lacordaire, which, with your permission, I will now present to your readers in an English dress.

"It was the month of December, 1846. In spite of the snow which enveloped the earth, a numerous crowd filled the vast nave of *Notre Dame*, impatient of hearing the voice of inspiration eloquently unfold the problem of eternity. Soon all eyes were turned towards the pulpit, in which the white habit of the order of St. Dominic had just made its appearance. The cowl thrown backward allowed the shaven head of the preacher to appear : a man with an elevated forehead, an animated eye, a spiritual lip, and a countenance of varied expression. This preacher was Lacordaire. With the first sounds of a thin and trembling voice, he swayed his hearers, and held them captive under his word. Lacordaire, that day, and in the presence of a most enlightened audience, approached one of the most stirring questions which have agitated the nineteenth century : that question was Magnetism." We will bring forward a few passages from his discourse on that occasion.

"I will without scruple allude to the accusation that Christ had recourse to occult and magnetic powers for the performance of his miracles : this charge is easily disproved : as science not only disclaims such powers, but rejects them. However I prefer obeying the dictates of my conscience to those of science. You then invoke magnetic power. I likewise believe in it firmly and sincerely. I believe that its effects have been verified by learned and candid men, moreover by *Christian men*, although as yet in an imperfect manner, and one which may always continue such. I believe that these phenomena in the generality of cases are purely natural. I believe that the secret of them has never been lost to the world, that it has been transmitted from one age to another, that it has caused a multitude of mysterious actions in which its power is easily recognized, and that it is only in our day that it has passed out of the shades of darkness because the present age is peculiarly stamped with the spirit of enquiry. I believe all this. Yes, gentlemen, as a holy safeguard from the pride of materialism, as a check to that science which would attempt to soar beyond its allotted limits, God has permitted that there should exist an irregu-

larity in the powers of nature, at variance with the laws of science. God has permitted this in order to prove to man, content with his own wisdom, that even without revelation we have within us revealings of a higher order of being; awful glimpses of the invisible world—of a kind of crater, into which the soul, emancipated for a moment from the powerful fetters of the body, plunges through depths it cannot fathom, and of which it retains no recollection, but which fully warn it that the present state conceals a future, in comparison with which our existing state is a mere void.

"All this is true—I believe it; but it is likewise true that these unknown powers are so restrained as to exercise no dominion over the laws of nature. Plunged into an artificial sleep man sees through opaque bodies to a certain distance; he prescribes remedies fitted to relieve, and even to cure bodily diseases; he appears to know things of which he was previously unconscious, and which he forgets the moment he wakes; and at his will he exercises great power over those with whom he is in magnetic communication. All this is painful, laborious, mingled with feelings of uncertainty and depression: it is far more a phenomenon of the mind than of action, a phenomenon which belongs more to the prophetic than to the supernatural class. For instance, we never see a sudden cure as an evident act of absolute power,—and as to the claim of prophecy, nothing can be of a lower order than its pretensions."

We are not called upon to defend either the logic or philosophy of the preacher: the point claiming attention is the warm support which Father Lacordaire has here given to mesmerism. First, then, it appears that the Church of Rome has not *under all circumstances*, simply and plainly, forbidden its use. The Sacred Penitentiary, presuming that mesmerism was such as was set forth in the case reported to it, decided that a power *so characterized* was not permissible. Secondly, it follows that, as the description of mesmerism given in the letter to Rome was erroneous, the answer founded on that description is not to be received by Roman Catholics as a prohibition. And thirdly, we see that one of the most eminent churchmen of the day, the Abbé Lacordaire, so understands the answer, and has given his warm adhesion to the practice of the science.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

ANTI-GLORIOSO.

P.S. It is universally felt that *The Zoist* well maintains its ground. The last was an admirable number. I have

observed with pleasure the able papers which have appeared on the subject of electro-biology. It is necessary that the right position of that system should be well understood by mesmerisers. And Dr. Elliotson, too, acted wisely in again introducing the facts connected with his retirement from University College Hospital. The grossest misstatements are repeated, year after year, by medical men upon this subject, and upon the cases of the Okeys; and their refutation cannot appear too often.

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\*.\* We have received the following information from a Scotch correspondent.—*Zoist*.

"I do not know if you are aware that Cardinal Wiseman, in a public lecture on 'The Communion and Invocation of Saints,' lately made the following reference to mesmerism. In reply to the objection, 'How do I know that the saints can hear me?' he says,—'A strange objection this for such an age as the present, when men of science believe and profess that they can draw out from a poor cataleptic patient a knowledge of what is passing in America—aye, and in the unseen world. If the mind unaided can know things at a distance, it is surely not much to believe in a power which this age proves to be within the range of physical laws.' The whole lecture is reported in the *Weekly Telegraph* newspaper for Saturday, March 13, 1852."

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V. *A domestic proof of the truth and value of Mesmerism.*  
By Mr. SIMMONDS, London.

"Mrs. Elizabeth Wildman begs to inform Mrs. Field,\* that Dr. Rowe† has POSITIVELY FORBIDDEN the lady‡ being mesmerised, therefore her services will not be required.

"10, Cumberland Terrace, Regent's Park, Oct. 26th, 1850."

9, Upper Fitzroy Street, Fitzroy Square.  
May 14th, 1852.

SIR,—I have been induced, from reading the cases of benefit from mesmerism recorded in *The Zoist*, to think that the following might be considered of sufficient importance to be inserted.

I may perhaps be allowed to state that it is now about seven years since I first felt inclined to try some experiments

\* A most respectable mesmeriser, residing at No. 18, Newland Street, Eaton Square.—*Zoist*.

† We are not sure that the name is properly spelt by the lady.—*Zoist*.

‡ Mrs. S. K. Lushington, Norton Court, Feversham, to whom the forbidding doctor was doing no good.—*Zoist*.

to satisfy myself of the truth of mesmerism, as I had heard many remarkable accounts of it and had read the works of Messrs. Sandby, Townshend, Teste and others. My subject was my brother, a lad of eight years of age. After a few trials I found I could produce the phenomena recorded by them, such as rigidity of the limbs, the phrenological manifestations, sympathy of taste, feeling, &c., as also some striking proofs of the faculty of introvision. Some time after this, he had a large and painful swelling on the under side of the face, arising, I believe, from weakness of the glands of the neck. At the recommendation of our medical adviser, Mr. Dansey, poultices were applied to increase the suppuration: and, after a time, it was thought best to lance it, that the scar might be less when healed than it would have been if allowed to break of itself. But, as he was so young and the pain likely to be intense, mesmerism was proposed and consented to; and the operation was to be performed on the following morning, May the 13th, 1846. Not having mesmerised him for several months, I put him to sleep three times during the day, and tested his insensibility to pain by pricking, pinching, &c. The next day, when Mr. Dansey came, I had put him into a deep sleep: and we proceeded to unfasten the bandage round his head, and to place him in a favourable position. An incision was then made, sufficiently large to allow the matter to be pressed from the wound till it seemed all extracted. During the whole of the time not the slightest expression of pain was manifested. I asked him if he knew who was with us: he said, yes, but that he felt *no pain*. We now thought of testing whether he would have any knowledge of it when awake: and, to do this, it was suggested that Mr. Dansey should leave the house, that the handkerchief round his head should be replaced, and every thing arranged in the room as it was prior to his being put to sleep. This was done, and I awoke him. He made no allusion to what had taken place, but got up and ran away to play as he had been accustomed to do on other occasions. The next morning, he saw that the wound had discharged, and thought it had broken during the night. It was not till some weeks afterwards that he knew anything of it; and he was very surprised when made acquainted with it.

The facts occurred just as I have stated, at Blandford in Dorsetshire: and, should any one be desirous of ascertaining the truth of them, Mr. Dansey, who was a sceptic at the time, will confirm the statements I have made.

I beg to remain, Sir, yours respectfully,

JOHN SIMMONDS.

To the Editor of *The Zoist*.

VI. *Last Meeting of the Bristol Mesmeric Institute,\* with details of cases by Dr. Storer : Tic Douloureux, Extreme Nervousness, Palpitation, Disabling Tremors, Dimness of Sight, Asthma, Sleeplessness, Despondency and suicidal tendency, Palsy, Debility, Rheumatism ; painless Surgical Operations ; Cures aided by Suggestion to the Imagination.*

"Watt in 1744 was determinedly opposed by all engineers, particularly by Smeaton, who went to great expense to make Newcomen's engine equal to Watt's, and made even one on Newcomen's principle, though Watt offered to put up one for him, taking for his remuneration only one-third of the saving in working his own engine.

"Within twenty years, when Stephenson was examined before the House of Commons and talked of going ten miles an hour, one M.P. observing his Scotch accent, asked if he were a Scotchman : and another M.P. replied, 'No ; a mad-man !'"—*Extracted by me from some book : but I forget what.*—J. ELLIOTSON.

A clergyman who was present informed me that, as Stephenson was leaving the room, an M.P. who was highly amused at Stephenson's saying he would take us ten miles an hour by steam, called after him in derision, "I suppose you could take us twenty miles, Mr. Stephenson !" and that Stephenson, turning his head, replied, "Yes ; and forty miles too."—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

THE chair was taken by Mr. Janson of Exeter.

Among letters from different gentlemen who regretted their absence was one from Mr. Barham of Clifton, who in it observed,—

"That the question had often been asked, 'What is the use of mesmerism?' Mesmerism is useful : 1. Because the phenomena it reveals in the sphere of philosophy, confirm and illustrate, by a species of analogy, many phenomena in the sphere of revelation, and thus tend to give a new and grand development to the argument of Bishop Butler, in his *Analogy of Religion and Nature*. 2. Mesmerism is useful, because it confirms and illustrates a great multitude of passages in the ancient classics, oriental and occidental, which had perplexed the critics for ages. I especially allude to passages relating to mythologic initiations, and occult sciences and arts, not to mention medicine and therapeutics, as an author has fully proved, in his work, entitled, *Isis Revelata*. 3. Mesmerism is useful, because it unfolds some of the most important principles and laws of pneumatology, psychology, and metaphysics. In connection with phrenology it has thrown more light on the profound mysteries of our mental being than all the modern metaphysicians have ever afforded. 4. Mesmerism is useful, because it can give sleep precisely on those occasions in which sleep is most requisite, and yet most difficult to procure by other means. 5. Mesmerism is useful, because it cures several diseases, mental and bodily, which have defied every other

\* This communication ought to have appeared long ago : but was unavoidably postponed. We regret to hear that the Institution exists no longer : and this from dissension and mismanagement. We shall specify nothing : but the Institution might have succeeded admirably. The mesmerisers were not all paid : and workers can rarely be depended upon without remuneration unless they are solitary labourers. In the London Mesmeric Infirmary are four paid mesmerisers : and there is perfect harmony : no one desiring to turn it or mesmerism to his own advantage.—*Zoist*.

method of treatment. 6. Mesmerism is useful, because it increases the strength and restores the balance of the constitution; it accumulates energy, and invigorates sensation; besides it frequently removes pain, calms agitation, and enables the patient to pass triumphantly through the most terrible operations of surgery. 7. Mesmerism is useful by revealing the connection that subsists between the spheres of mental, nervous, and electrical light, and illustrating their resemblances and their differences. 8. Mesmerism is useful, because it reveals and explains many curious phenomena of sleep and somnambulism. 9. Mesmerism is useful, because it reveals the vast extent and development of mental consciousness, within the body, and without it, independent of the operation of the physical senses. 10. Mesmerism is useful as proving the power of mental volition over men and animals. 11. Mesmerism is useful, because it often cures the disorders of insanity, nervousness, and hypochondriasis, which are too subtle to be defeated by other applications. Finally, mesmerism is useful, because it teaches the lesson of reverence for that Being who has made his image man so wonderfully and so fearfully; and it enforces the great lesson taught us by Hamlet, when he says,

'There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,  
Than are dreamt of in our philosophy.'

What wonder is it that mesmerism should have so rapidly extended in its influence and authority, when we consider that its uses are as numerous as its proofs, and only require full examination to produce full conviction!"

Mr. Ryland, the Secretary, read the report, which stated,

"That they could not but rejoice that the Bristol Mesmeric Institute had fully realized the intention of its promoters. He said fully only in regard to the great amount of good effected by small means, the fact of which they would ascertain when the medical officer presented his report. In order to enable them to do all the good they would desire, the public must aid them more substantially. At their last annual meeting upwards of 40 cases had been under treatment; on the present occasion he had pleasure in informing them that from 60 to 70 patients had been cured, or materially benefited, and to effect which the subscriptions, donations, and receipts received had been under £50. They must bear in mind that the cases were usually protracted and long ones, and where medical assistance in general had proved ineffectual. They had to thank their worthy physician for his constant and unwearied services, and his labours had been continually assisted by his kind lady, Mrs. Storer. They had been obliged to refuse numerous applicants, but they trusted the public would enable them by increased assistance to effect a far greater amount of benefit.

"Dr. Storer then read the medical report, which stated that at the last public meeting 47 cases of diseases were mentioned as having come under the notice of the medical officers. Since that period

67 cases had been admitted, making upwards of 100, among which had been comprised the most serious and complicated cases of disease, such as paralysis, epilepsy, mental aberration, tic douloureux, deafness, defective sight, rheumatism, hysteria, with other affections of the nervous system, besides several painless operations. The majority had been greatly relieved, several of the most distressing diseases cured, including all the varieties stated. Many of the patients, having been too ill to attend at the Institution, had been provided with the necessary attendance at their homes; and others, though receiving great good, did not continue long enough to experience more fully the benefits of mesmerism. There were 12 patients remaining under treatment, all more or less progressive. Many of these cases were of the worst description, and the rejected of the Infirmary, the General Hospital, and the Bath Hospital. As a medical man, he (Dr. Storer) used mesmerism as an adjunct. There were many cases in which medicine did no good, but mesmerism had been effectual in all. On this point he could speak from much experience, having when in London been an officer in a public hospital where he saw a large variety of nervous disease, in which ordinary medicine failed; but the same class of disease had yielded to mesmerism. He regretted that as a medical man he stood alone, and received so little support; the profession however were too well aware that in the diseases referred to they had little control.

"Mr. J. B. Parker, of Exeter, in moving the adoption of the report, observed that he had not come there to boast of mesmerism, but to bear his testimony to the great good which had been effected by the science. It was the same in Exeter as it was here, and, as Dr. Storer had said, he (Mr. P.) also stood alone there; but he cared not for that, as he had the cause of truth to support him (cheers). All they had to attend to was the curative powers of mesmerism, and the science of mesmerism was not confined to geographical position. The pains of labour, and the pains of childhood may be relieved by the science, and also cases of cancer. All the ancient writings contained proofs of the agency of mesmerism. They had to do only with the curative powers of mesmerism, and if they tried it for themselves, they would soon be convinced of its efficacy. He would tell them of the case of a lad, whose father was deranged, and the boy also, from overstudy at school, got deranged, and medical men pronounced the case hopeless. He (Mr. P.) went for him, brought him a distance of 10 miles, and under the treatment of mesmerism the boy recovered, and is now living and well (hear, hear). If mesmerism could relieve such an extreme case of insanity, what may it not do in the relief of other cases—19 cases out of 20 may be cured by its agency (hear, hear). It had been said that mesmerism was an agent of the devil, but the day was not far distant when those who condemned mesmerism would be looked upon as enemies of society. He looked forward to the day when education would be conducted on the principles of phrenology—conducted on the principles of mesmerism. The words of Lord Bacon with



respect to the ant, the spider, and the bee, were applicable with respect to knowledge, and he hoped that what he had said that day would be brought to reality (hear, hear).

"Mr. Brooke Smith seconded the resolution. Mesmerism had been objected to as being a trick and delusion, but his own experience had given him many opportunities of seeing the experiments of Dr. Storer and others, and he was quite satisfied they were *bona fide*.

"Mr. Mead bore testimony to the good effects of mesmerism, and said he fully concurred in the observation of Mr. Parker, that education ought to be founded on the principles of phrenology and mesmerism.

"Mr. Phelps also related some very extraordinary cures which had been effected by himself with the aid of mesmerism.

"The Chairman observed that there was one point in Dr. Elliotson's letter which he had not sufficiently dwelt upon, which was respecting the new General Hospital, expressing a wish that mesmerism may be introduced there and in every hospital in England.

"Dr. Storer said it was very desirable that mesmerism should be introduced into the New Hospital. They had no wish to keep up the Mesmeric Institute if that could be done.

"A vote of thanks to the Chairman, on the motion of Mr. Parker, having been carried and acknowledged, the meeting separated."

#### TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

##### *Cases in connexion with the Bristol Mesmeric Institute.*

Sir,—The large number of cases which have presented themselves at the Bristol Mesmeric Institute, and which have been cured or greatly relieved, prove how useful mesmerism may be made amongst the poorer classes. I hope gradually to present these to the public; but, as a medical man, I am aware that repeated details would become tedious. I have therefore selected the present as conveying types of similar diseases, and as proving how much can be done by steady perseverance. The cases now sent were all of very long standing; the patients were at first too ill to come out, and almost all name a large number of medical gentlemen who had previously attended, or under whose care they had been at various hospitals or other public institutions. They also all continue to enjoy comparatively good health.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Bristol.

HENRY STORER, M.D.

##### *Severe Tic Douloureux with other nervous affections.*

Mrs. B., widow, applied for advice in June, 1849. She had suffered from severe pains in the head and face for years,

and had frequent attacks of erysipelas in various parts of the body. She got no rest at night, and from constant pains became depressed in mind. She had tried a variety of means, and been so severely salivated that her gums and teeth have suffered great injury: many of the teeth were loose, and there was a constant flow of saliva.

She was first mesmerised for a fortnight by myself, and then admitted at the institute, where she was chiefly operated upon by Mrs. Storer and the assistant.

Within the first week an impression was made; the pains being somewhat less violent, and her sleep improved. She attended regularly for two months, and by the end of that period expressed herself so much better that she discontinued for a short time. Her occupation—that of a pew-opener—exposed her to constant draughts, which brought on a slight return of her pains; but, by resuming mesmerism for another month, she got quite well, and has remained so now a twelvemonth.

No actual coma was induced by mesmerism, but a most lulling, pleasant drowsiness, which made her always regret when the sitting was over.

*Extreme Dimness of Sight, with sleeplessness.*

Mrs. G., aged 32, residing at Alden's Court, Broadmead, applied in April, 1849. She said that her sight was so impaired that she could hardly see to read, or do her work: and, as she has a family and is unable to use her needle, she feels it a great drawback. She gets very little sleep, and complains of great general debility, with depression of spirits: had tried every form of advice and medicines, but without any benefit; and at last, from the known good done to others by mesmerism, was very anxious to have it applied in her own case. I mesmerised her for the first few days, but, being poor, she was allowed the benefit of the institute. She continued mesmerism regularly for two months; at the end of that time she expressed herself quite well.

She became very susceptible, so as to have good sound sleep induced in less than three minutes, and always awoke refreshed. She was also suckling a baby, which partook of the general irritability; but, *on both being mesmerised together for a few times, the baby became as improved as the mother.* The sight continues fully restored, and the general restlessness removed. She expresses herself to be now quite free from all her former ailments.

This last report is now many months from her previous illness.

The amount of good that can be done with mesmerism amongst children, applied properly and perseveringly, is very great. Even bad tempers can in this way be greatly improved.

*Case of Despondency and suicidal tendency.*

John Hobbs, residing at Church Lane, St. Phillip's, applied January, 1849. Stated that he had been deranged three times, and had been twice an inmate of a lunatic asylum. His friends advised him to try mesmerism. Being very poor, he was admitted a patient at the institute in March. I had previously attended him for a month, and had produced some marked effects upon him. He was a tailor, but no one would employ him, though he was able to work and said to be a good workman.

By a continuance in mesmerism for three months, he was greatly improved. His peculiar aberration was a morbid desire to destroy himself. His wife and family were obliged to be removed for some time lest he should commit violence upon them. After four months' treatment he was enabled to resume his trade, and went by my advice to a different locality, where he is in good work; and his family is restored to him. When I was in Wales some time since, he accosted me, and was so greatly improved in health and circumstances that I hardly knew him to be the same man.

The marked effect referred to was excitement of particular cerebral organs. Just previously to waking him, and after he was demesmerised, I usually excited certain organs, such as those of Mirthfulness, Firmness, and the whole moral region. So fully did these respond, that the patient admitted the feeling of joy and hope to last for some hours; and, on one or two occasions when I omitted the excitement of his organs in his waking state, he has returned, and begged me to do as I usually did to him.

*Severe Rheumatism with Palsy and long-standing Asthma.*

Thomas Cooper, aged 63, residing at Bedminster near Bristol, a married man with children, has been suffering from fifteen to twenty years with most extreme pains and distress from varied attacks of rheumatism and asthma. The rheumatic affection was so extreme as to be considered by his medical attendants to be combined with partial paralysis. His limbs have been swollen and disabled, and are quite stiff from repeated attacks; he has had the best advice, been in the Bristol Infirmary and Bath Hospital, and considered himself no better when he last came out. He has continued much

in the same state for the last two years. Becoming very desirous to try mesmerism, was admitted in October, 1849, and continued a patient for three months.

By a steady perseverance he was most essentially relieved within a month. At the end of the second month he was so much better that his pains had nearly left him, and the asthma was so far relieved that he went to bed comfortably and had good nights. He was enabled after the third month to walk to the institute in less than half an hour, though previously it took him from an hour to an hour and a half. He was also mesmerised at home for some time, and by the end of the fourth month expressed himself nearly well, and most grateful for the benefits received.

He was highly susceptible in the mesmeric state, and, being of a religious turn of mind, would under the mesmeric excitement of the organs of Veneration and Language give utterance to ideas and sentiments which he was quite unequal to express in his natural state. Advantage was taken of this to excite the action of the muscular system; and this excitement answered well, when we consider his age and his present near approach to perfect health.

#### *Palpitation and general Debility.*

Mrs. H. had been suffering for some years from palpitation of the heart, with pains on each side, languor and general debility, and very disturbed sleep. She had tried every available means until her attention had been directed to mesmerism by her friends; she then consulted me, and was attended for three weeks by myself, afterwards at the institute. Within two months she was so decidedly better, that she hardly knew herself to be the same person. She however persevered for three months, and at the end of that time felt herself so well that she thought she could safely give up mesmerism. I allowed her to try; but, a slight relapse coming on, she continued mesmerism for another month, and has now the satisfaction of being quite well except under particular excitements, and then a few administrations of mesmerism entirely relieve her. She shewed all the varied phenomena up to clairvoyance. She expresses herself truly grateful for the benefits received.

The utility of commands was well evinced in this case; and, by a proper regulation, they were the means of averting threatened attacks of pain and the particular excitements before referred to. She has never been better in her life, and it is now twelve months since she has been mesmerised for any ailments.

*Extreme Tremor and Nervousness, with pain.*

George Morgan was admitted in September, 1850. His account was, that he had been suffering for nearly two years from extreme nervous feelings, which at times affected his system so violently that he was considered to be under attacks of ague, and treated accordingly; but without any good. The attacks became more violent, and he could never consider himself free from pain. He was a shoemaker, but, from the constant trembling upon him, he was unable to continue his occupation. He had tried everything that had been suggested by various medical men, but without effect.

He was mesmerised daily for a month, and by the end of that time began to feel himself much better. His sleep has become more composed, and he can hold a tool steadily, which he had not been able to do since his illness. He continued mesmerism for three months under a friend who had been instructed for the purpose, and by the end of that time became so well as to be able gradually to resume his work, leaving Bristol for a change, and finding employment where he was. He now resides in the country, and has called on several occasions to shew himself, and return thanks for the benefits received.

After the first month the effects of mesmerism in his waking state were very sensibly shewn. The tremor could be overcome by passes made down the arms or legs, and this improved state would last for a considerable time, giving him perfect command over his ordinary pursuits, and enabled him more readily to resume his business.

*Painless Operations in Surgery.*

Several cases of what are called minor operations have been performed without pain. These include cases of teeth extraction, the application of caustic to various parts of the body, such as the eye, nose, and throat; all generally considered in the waking state to be very sensitive parts. Thus in one patient I have applied caustic upwards of twenty times to the throat and nose. In her natural state she is so sensitive that she shudders at the approach of my hand. Her ailments are yielding, but without mesmerism no progress would have been made. Tumors and abscesses, which are also painful, have been operated upon without the knowledge of the patients.

Several dentists have at various times extracted teeth, as I prefer calling in dentists who have not before operated in the mesmeric state. Mr. Hart, of Park Street, lately operated on two occasions, extracting four teeth. His convic-

tions were most firmly expressed, that the operations were performed without the knowledge of the patients.

*Benefit of suggesting to the Imagination.*

This is absurdly termed electro-biology. In the Third Volume of *The Zoist* is a most interesting communication from Dr. Buchanan, of America, to Dr. Elliotson, in which it appears that all which has been lately demonstrated in this country, and far more, had been some time previously performed by that gentleman. I am glad to say that I have found suggestion to the imagination of great use where time and circumstances did not allow of the more lengthened period required by the usual application of mesmerism. A large number of patients are constantly applying for admission to the institute, but, our means being so very limited, only a few can be received.

I have on several occasions tried the varied susceptibilities of parties applying, and, generally finding two or three who have fallen sufficiently under the influence, have admitted them.

I will now add the results of three cases which during last summer came under my notice.

*Tic Douloureux and Palsy.*

One was that of a stout man, a mariner, who had suffered from palsy of the left side for three years. He was quite prevented from work, and had tried every available means of relief. I placed him amongst others to try his susceptibility by the use of the zinc and copper coin with occasional passes. He was the first affected, and, passing him into the deeper mesmeric state, I was enabled to act upon his limbs in a very satisfactory way. On arousing him he scarcely knew what had transpired. I repeated the experiments in his apparently waking state, and induced motions in his arms and legs that astonished him. By himself he was quite unequal to these movements until after the fourth sitting, when I caused him to exercise his arms and legs, and this power was retained for a considerable time.

He was operated upon for a few times, and at the end of a month was enabled to resume his usual duties.

*Violent Tic Douloureux.*

John Peat, a respectable mechanic, presented himself. He said he had been a martyr to tic douloureux for some months. All ordinary means had failed. He could not work half his time on account of these attacks, and sometimes was laid by for weeks together.

Trying him with others in June last, I soon saw he was readily influenced: and, as he was then suffering acute pain, I confined my attention chiefly to him, and in less than ten minutes he was asleep. I made passes over the head and face, and, before arousing him, told him he would wake up free from pain. This turned out to be the fact, and the pain did not return until the following day, on which he came as requested. I now operated in the apparently waking state, and quite subdued the pain, and gave him reason to believe it might not return. To this he was quite incredulous. I desired him to come the following day with his daughter, promising to give her instructions how to proceed. The poor man had suffered no return of the pain when he came again. His daughter then locally mesmerised him under proper directions night and morning for three weeks, and, except on one or two occasions, he has been quite free from pain. This freedom has continued now for many months. He considers himself cured, and says he cannot express too much gratitude, having previously suffered so long and severely.

#### *Paralysis.*

A youth, about 14 years old, sent to the institute by a gentleman. He had suffered from paralysis of the arms and legs for three years, and was nearly unable to walk. He shewed evident symptoms of being easily acted upon at the first sitting. He was operated upon several times in succession, and so successfully, that after the third day he was made to use his arms most freely, to walk and run very quickly and against his will, so as to make him believe he was beside himself. By the end of a month he was quite well.

The above cases were witnessed by a large number of persons, as I was then giving demonstrations at the Rooms, and at these meetings I presented the patients to give their own accounts of ailments and cures.

#### VII. Cases by Mr. Saunders of Bristol. *Rheumatism; Pain from a burn; Bleeding and possibly a Fit in a Rabbit; Pain and Helplessness in a Cat from being run over; Rheumatism; Tooth-ache.\**

"The ignorance of the Mexicans is equal to their superstition. We were amused at an instance afforded us in the case of a schoolmaster. While describing to him the modes of travelling in America, we told him about the steamers,

\* These cases have been unavoidably deferred as long as those of Dr. Storer.  
—Zöist.

at which he was not much surprised, having heard of them before: but, when we told him of the railroad, he listened with the same incredulity with which the king of Siam heard the missionaries describe ice; and, when we told him of the telegraph, he slowly arose, wrapped his *serape* around him, and moved off, without deigning us a word or a look."—*Sixteen Months in the Gold Diggings*. By D. B. Wood.

### I. *Rheumatism.*

A MAN by the name of Charles Jennings, who had occasion to call on me, was observed by my clerk, Mr. Pester, to carry his head very much to one side: and, upon Mr. Pester asking him what ailed him, he said that he had been and was then suffering from a most dreadful pain at the back of his head, extending to the back of each ear. Mr. Pester made him sit down, gave him a disk to look at, and in about ten minutes his eyes closed. After making passes over the back of his head and ears for about a quarter of an hour, Mr. Pester woke him up. He said the pain was quite gone, and he felt his head "nice and light." In about three days he called again, and, as he did not feel very strong, my clerk sent him off again by means of the disk, and, after trying for some time to stiffen his arms without success, woke him. Just at this time I went in, and then sent him into the sleep by the fixed gaze and pointing the fingers. He went off in about four minutes. After making strong passes from the head down the spine, I made two or three very strong ones along the arms, and these became perfectly rigid: as did also his legs. My clerk also could *now* cause rigidity. He went away quite well.

I have just stated that I made some *very strong passes*. What I mean is this: I fancy to myself that I have actually some two or three hundred weight of disease at the ends of my fingers, and that I am dragging it down. The energy that I use upon these occasions frequently causes the perspiration to drop from my forehead like large peas, and I am perfectly satisfied that a want of energy on the part of the mesmeriser is, in nine cases out of ten, the chief cause of failure. I have seen mesmerisers make passes along an arm for half an hour at a time, as though they were brushing flue from off a piece of velvet, without producing the slightest rigidity. I have then made a few strong passes, and the arm has become like a piece of iron.

### II. *Pain from a burn.*

A lad in my employ, by the name of John Berry, came crying to my clerk in consequence of having burnt his wrist with the gas. It was in great pain and looked very red. My clerk immediately mesmerised it without sending him



into the sleep, and for about a minute the pain greatly increased: but, in less than three minutes more, the pain entirely ceased, and he felt no more of it. This lad is very susceptible of mesmerism and the phenomena of suggestion.

### III. *A bleeding Rabbit, probably in a fit.*

My little boy came running to me to say that one of his rabbits which had lately had a litter of young ones was very ill. I found it stretched along the bottom of the hutch; panting very quickly and bleeding severely from the nose and mouth: the eyes were nearly closed, and those who saw it pronounced it to be dying. I pointed my fingers with contact just under the ear for about a quarter of an hour, when it began rapidly to improve, the bleeding stopped, and the eyes looked much more lively. I then left off, and in two hours' time the rabbit was to all appearance quite well; and it has remained so to this time.

### IV. *Pain and helplessness in a Cat from being run over.*

This morning, August 12, a pair of trucks were accidentally wheeled over a favourite white cat of ours: it cried and struggled terribly, and was quite unable to stand upon its legs. Some persons who were present advised its being killed at once, as they said it was impossible for the poor thing to recover and it would be more humane to put it out of its misery at once. But my clerk carried it into the room, and, holding it in one hand, he mesmerised it with the other. In about half an hour I came home, and, after mesmerising it strongly for some time, the pain evidently subsided. The shoulder was exceedingly hot when I commenced the passes, but soon became quite cool, and the little animal in the course of about an hour was running about as well as usual, with the exception of a slight lameness, which went off in a very few days.

### V. *Rheumatism.*

A labouring man, John Ball, came to me with his right arm and hand in a sling. He was suffering from rheumatism, unable to move either his arm or hand; and the hand was considerably swollen. He could not bear it to be touched. My clerk sent him into the sleep with the disk in seven minutes, and, after mesmerising his arm and hand for some little time, he was allowed to remain in the sleep for about ten minutes more. I then took him in hand, and made strong passes over his arm and hand. The swelling rapidly decreased, and, after being wakened, he went away without his sling, and said that the improvement he had made was astonishing.

The following day he came again; his hand continued better. As I was out at the time, my clerk again sent him off with the disk, and tried to make his arm rigid; but could not succeed. On my return home, finding him still asleep, I tried to induce rigidity or catalepsy of the arms, but failed. I then woke him up, and sent him again into the sleep by the fixed gaze and the passes, and I then easily succeeded in causing perfect rigidity. When I awoke him, he found his arm and hand quite well, with the exception of a slight swelling in the middle joint of his second finger. He went to work the next day, and has had no return of his complaint.

He had suffered from attacks of rheumatism, and they always lasted five or six weeks. This was over in two days.

#### VI. *Tooth-ache.*

A servant who has recently come to live with us, a young woman about 24 years of age, had been a great sufferer from tooth-ache, and had previously to her coming to us had seven teeth extracted. Yesterday, August 17th, she was almost distracted with a pain in one of her teeth, and it affected the whole side of her face. My clerk made a few passes over the face, and in a very few minutes the pain entirely ceased, and it has not returned.

#### VII. *Tooth-ache.*

Last night, Aug. 18, my little boy, 10 years of age, was suffering dreadfully from tooth-ache. I made about ten or fifteen passes over the side of the face where the pain was, and this immediately ceased, and he went to sleep.

The boy Berry, whose burn was the first of the present cures, having been sent upon an errand, returned home crying and limping. He had fallen down and cut his knee against the curb of the pavement. A crowd surrounded the door, thinking he had broken his leg. On examining the knee, I found it very much swollen, scratched, and very red. He was mesmerised for about half an hour, and the leg made quite rigid. When we awoke him, he felt no pain, the swelling had entirely disappeared, and he was able to walk without the slightest lameness.

S. D. SAUNDERS.

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#### VIII. *Transference of the sense of Hearing from the Ear to the Abdomen.*

IN a recent work, *A Faggot of French Sticks*, there is a curious confirmation of the mesmeric fact of hearing through the stomach. In his description of the National Institution of

the Deaf and Dumb in Paris, the author, Sir Francis Head, says, "I found under the charge of the *Surveillant en chef*, himself deaf and dumb, 116 fine healthy-looking deaf and dumb boys, amusing themselves at gymnastic exercises: when all of a sudden a drum beat, on which, just as if they had heard its roll, they all instantly desisted from their games, fell into line, and by beat of drum, with which their feet kept perfect time, they marched away, following the drummer-boy, who was also deaf and dumb. 'They cannot be perfectly deaf,' I said 'if they hear that drum?' In reply, my guide informed me that its roll had no effect on their ears, but created an immediate vibration in their chests, which, although in describing it he had put his hand thereon, he termed '*dans l'estomac*.'"

Here then is a proof, independent of mesmeric authority, that sound can reach the sensorium through other channels than the ear. If it be said that, like the ticking of a watch held between the teeth or placed on the top of the head, the roll of the drum is merely a vibration acting on the nerves of the internal ear, and is not like the voice, which conveys through the proper organ whatever ideas the speaker wishes to express, it may be remarked in reply that, if it be admitted that inarticulate sounds like the roll of a drum, as in the case of the deaf boys, can affect the sensorium through the channel of the stomach, why, where the senses are peculiarly acute in certain stages of the mesmeric trance, should not the human voice be capable of conveying ideas to the mind by the act of whispering on the abdomen? If we could shew that the vibration of light acts on the optic nerve while the eye is shut and insensible to external objects, as the vibration of the air affects the acoustic nerve while the ear is in a similar condition, we might argue that external objects may be *seen*, no less than sounds be *heard*, independently of the agency of the eye and ear. May there not be a faculty in the human organization in its abnormal state that can take cognizance of the external world through other than the special organs of sense?

NON-WIST.

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IX. *Mesmerism in Rochdale.* By Captain HUDSON. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"In *The Zoist* and elsewhere are found cases of asserted cures of epilepsy, &c., &c., by mesmerism: but nervous complaints are so proverbially capricious in their progress and termination, that in such cases it is impossible to ascribe the results to any specific or remedial property of mesmerism, and hence observers have probably fallen into the *post hoc, propter hoc* fallacy. Dr. Fricke,

of Hamburg, has shewn that *fear* will supplant epilepsy, and many patients were so cured by him in the children's hospital. Any amendment produced by mesmerism in such cases may therefore simply result from the emotions excited by the process, and its employment in cancer seems simply absurd.—*MARCUS*.\*  
Romford, Essex, Feb. 16, 1852. [A sentence from a long and silly letter in the *Chelmsford Chronicle*.]

DURING three months Captain Hudson was successfully engaged in demonstrating to the inhabitants of Rochdale and its vicinity the nature and uses of mesmerism. Though strongly opposed at the commencement of his lectures, both by the ignorant and interested, he succeeded by patient perseverance and a strict adherence to the truth in awakening public attention to its utility and in making converts of some of its bitterest enemies. During his stay, he delivered no less than fifty-five lectures in the Public Hall. They were attended by audiences averaging from six hundred to seven hundred persons, and composed not only of what is termed the lower classes, said to be the most easily imposed upon, but of magistrates, ministers, members of the medical profession, and others of the most intelligent and influential inhabitants of the town. These of course, especially the gentlemen of the faculty, subjected his experiments to the severest scrutiny and endeavoured by every possible means to discover some deception. But we are happy to say that, so far from being able to do this, many of them, both publicly and privately, confessed to the truth of mesmerism which they had formerly opposed. Indeed, so striking were the illustrations of the power of mesmerism, that the general opinion was that it would require more faith to believe them to be the result of any secret understanding between the operator and his subjects, than to give entire credence to the fact that they are produced by a simple power of nature with which we are as yet but imperfectly acquainted; while the number publicly operated upon, amounting to between fifty and sixty of both sexes, and of all ages, some of them young men among the strongest in the town, has completely refuted the silly idea, that the power of mesmerism can only be displayed on the weak-minded or the tender and delicate.

The efficacy of the science however was most clearly established by the Captain's successful application of it as a curative agent. From the time that his lectures drew the

\* The anonymous *Essex* writer may well be ashamed to give his name: and I trust that he is not a medical man but boastingly signs himself *Medicus* instead of *Vitulus*.

"*Vitulusque inermi fronte prurit in pugnam.*"

MARTIAL. III., lviij., 11.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

attention of the public, he has been attended by from twenty to thirty patients daily. Many of these were relieved from pain of long continuance, had some senses completely restored that had been partially lost, and limbs long considered useless restored to vigour and usefulness. The first case which proved the curative power of mesmerism was that of a young woman, called Amelia Swale. Thirteen months previously, she had lost the use of her right arm. She applied to three medical gentlemen, but none of them could produce in it any signs of recovery. One of them advised her to apply to Captain Hudson. She went to him during the first month of his stay, and after a few operations the power began to be restored. Gradually the arm grew stronger, until, in little more than a week, she could use it with some degree of freedom. Many prophesied that it would soon relapse into its former helpless condition; but unhappily for their foresight it continued to improve until she had more strength in it than in the other and was able to use it more than the other. A second striking case is that of Mrs. Brown, the wife of a respectable draper in the town, who gives the following testimonial:—

“77, Yorkshire Street, Rochdale,  
“March 12th, 1852.

“For five years I was afflicted with tic douloureux, and for two years with spasms: and I was attended during that time by physicians both in Halifax and Rochdale without obtaining any permanent relief. When Captain Hudson came to this town, I attended some of his lectures; and, although I had but little faith in the science, I placed myself under his treatment. The first time he operated upon me I felt considerable relief: and, after several days attendance, I was completely freed from pain. From that time my health has continued to improve, so that I am now altogether free from pain and enjoy better health than I had done for many years past.

“Gratitude constrains me to give this testimonial to the good I have received through the influence of mesmerism.

“SARAH BROWN.”

There is another from Francis Winn, a moulder, connected with one of the first families in the place:—

“Fieldhead, Rochdale, March 12th, 1852.

“I had been suffering from a chronic inflammation in the synorial membrane of my right knee for the last nine years. For six of them my leg has been entirely stiff; and during

the last twelve months I had to use crutches. I had every description of medical advice without obtaining any relief. Most of my physicians were of opinion that it must be cut off. Hearing of Captain Hudson, I applied to him. Since he began to operate upon me I have gradually improved. The knee which was greatly swollen has been reduced to its proper dimensions. I am now able to bend it more than I have done for six years, and can almost walk without the assistance of crutches, which, through mesmeric treatment, I expect soon to be able to lay wholly aside.

"I may also state that my general health has been greatly improved through the same means, and I most heartily wish success to every endeavour to spread a knowledge of the science from which I have obtained so much relief.

"FRANCIS WINN, Moulder."

Many other cures might be narrated in proof of what has been effected by means of mesmerism in Rochdale. It is impossible to describe the gratitude evinced by those who have been cured. Given up by their physicians, they saw no prospect but that of leading a life of wretchedness, of dependence upon their friends, or upon the sympathies of the public. Now they find themselves, through a natural agency, restored as it were to life, with ability to do its business with hope. No wonder that they should be grateful both to the Author of every good gift and to the agent by whom they have been cured. Their thanks, together with the consciousness of doing good, form a noble recompense to Captain Hudson for all his toils and for all the calumnies he has had to bear; while they themselves, despite the prejudices of the ignorant and the hostility of the interested, will live as undeniable evidences that God has implanted in man a power wherewith to alleviate the physical woes of his brother, and do somewhat to pave the way for the abolition of the barbarous practices which have hitherto prevailed in the so-called healing art, and for the introduction of the gentler means whereby nature becomes her own restorer.

We believe Captain Hudson to be well adapted to the work he has undertaken: the strength of his constitution, the firmness of his nerve, together with his kindness of heart, eminently fit him for such a task. Most heartily do we wish him success in his efforts to spread what we believe to be truth, and to do good to the poor and afflicted of our race.

The following is extracted from the *Manchester Examiner and Times*, of the 28th of February, and may be looked upon

as so far corroborative of the preceding statements, all of which will be verified by any unprejudiced inhabitant of Rochdale.

ALEX. BIRNIE, Agent,  
Railway Street, Rochdale.

JOHN MOFFAT,  
Agent and Superintendent of Public Hall,  
Baillie Street, Rochdale.

**"THE HOLMFIRTH CALAMITY.—CAPTAIN HUDSON'S LECTURE.**—Pursuant to announcement, Capt. Hudson delivered a lecture on mesmerism and biology, illustrated by numerous experiments, on Tuesday evening last, in the Public-hall, Baillie-street, Rochdale, when there was a numerous and highly respectable auditory. It appeared that Captain Hudson had delivered 50 public lectures and illustrations, in the Public-hall, Rochdale, during the last few months; in addition to which he had, on five different occasions, lectured gratuitously on behalf of some of the institutions connected with the town, and his concluding lecture was given on behalf of the sufferers by the late accident near Holmfirth. The proceeds would amount to a considerable sum, as there was a large audience, and all the reserved seats were occupied, the admission to which was 2s. for each person. The Rochdale temperance harmonic band was in attendance, and also Mr. G. H. Keeling, whose performance on the flutina was much admired. Before commencing his experiments, Captain Hudson stated that during the whole course of his entertainments not one person had come forward to confute what he had advanced on the subject. The whole of the persons, with one exception, on which he intended to operate, would be persons belonging to Rochdale, with whom he had scarcely had five minutes' previous conversation, and they were not at all aware what he was about to do. There was an impression that it was likely to prove injurious for persons to be frequently operated upon; but, so far as his experience went, the opposite was the case, for he had operated upon one person 2000 times within two years, and she had been visited by 10,000 persons, and was better at the end of the period than she had been before. In bringing out the various phenomena connected with the subject, it was too much for him to expect that he would receive the approval of all: but it had been peculiarly gratifying to find that in every place which he had visited he had been well received. When he first came to Rochdale, it was with the intention of staying one week: and he had stayed three months. During that period 200 afflicted cases had been brought before him, several of which had been cured, and many had been relieved. There were some present who had derived considerable benefit in consequence of being operated upon. He was glad to have had the attendance of medical men at his lectures, some of whom had expressed their approval of his proceedings. When he first visited the town it was said, 'Get some Rochdale people magnetized;' but now he had so many that he scarcely knew what to do with them all. Captain Hudson having made a few passes with

his hand, about 20 persons, from different parts of the hall, came rushing towards the platform, apparently drawn by an irresistible influence. The affinities of bodies were shewn by placing a boy and a powerful man together, the boy having entire control over the man, leading him wherever he chose. It was somewhat singular to see a man whose muscular strength was such that he could lift two 56 lb. weights above his head, unable to move except with the consent of a boy. A variety of experiments were then made, some of which were very ludicrous and greatly excited the risible faculties of the audience. Captain Hudson could take away the power of motion, and the power of vision, and could restore them at pleasure. He operated upon more than 30 persons, some of whom had been greatly benefitted by being operated upon. One young lady was present whose right arm had been paralyzed many months, but had been restored to use. One of the most astonishing features connected with the entertainment was the composure evidenced by Captain Hudson during the whole of the proceedings, and the entire control which he exercised over the minds of so large a number of persons in the mesmeric state at one time."

We extract the following from the *Liverpool Mercury* of Jan. 3, 1851 :—

"*Mesmerism.*

"Liverpool, 1st Jan., 1851.

"MR. HENRY HUDSON.

"Dear Sir,—I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the beneficial effects of mesmerism, having experienced the greatest relief in two different cases.

"For several years previous to my seeing you I was afflicted with a violent pain in the head, caused by inflammation. All the remedies from which I sought relief failed, until it was my good fortune to try the efficacy of mesmerism, by which you succeeded in removing the inflammation, and in a few days I was perfectly cured, and have never suffered from the pain in the head since. I had forgotten to state that this was about two years since. A short time afterwards I partly lost the use of my right hand by an accident, which caused a contraction of the sinews that rendered it painful to use my hand for the slightest purpose. After eighteen months' trial of medical treatment, without any beneficial effect, I again applied to you, and in a few minutes from the time you commenced to magnetize it I was enabled to open it without the slightest pain, and have used it with ease and comfort ever since.

"Believing that mesmerism, or animal magnetism, (so beneficial in my case,) would in many cases be productive of much good, it would give me pleasure to hear of many others deriving ease by it from the sufferings incident to our common humanity.

"Thanking a kind Providence for the boon, and yourself as the instrument of my singular cure,

"I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,

"Halifax."

"J. E. DEAN.



"Dear Sir,—Having accompanied the above-mentioned lady, who is my sister, to your house, and witnessed the cure in the latter case, I have much pleasure in confirming her statement, and expressing my confidence in mesmerism as a cure for all contractions of the sinews, or pains of the head similar to those with which she was afflicted.

"Music Preceptor, Dewsbury."

"Yours truly,  
"J. W. DEAN."

X. *Remarks upon a form of Sub-mesmerism, popularly called Electro-Biology, now practised in Scinde and other Eastern Countries.* By RICHARD F. BURTON, Lieut. Bombay Army. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"Redruth, Cornwall, Oct. 23rd, 1849.

"Dear Sir,—In answer to your inquiry, I beg to inform you that it was Mr. Titus Deville who told me what I wrote to you respecting the College of Physicians.\*

"Believe me to be, dear Sir, yours very truly,

"Dr. Elliotson."

"HENRY HARRIS."

To Dr. Elliotson.

DEAR DOCTOR,—The last time I had the pleasure of seeing you, you remarked that readers of *The Zoist* feel interest in perusing the accounts of travellers who have taken pains to collect the *débris* of an ancient science which they still find scattered amongst barbarous and semi-civilized races. This encourages me to forward a few notes upon the subject. I have only to hope that you will consider them in any way worthy of your attention.

An old form of mesmerism, under the new name of electro-biology, has lately been introduced into England; and, by the ridiculousness rather than the utility of its phenomena, it has excited considerable attention. I call it an *old* form, as it has been known and practised in the East from time immemorial.

Every well-read man has perused half a dozen accounts of Shaykh Abd-el-Kadir, the Cairo Magician, whose powers of exhibiting the appearance of absent persons were first noticed in the pages of an eminent Arabic scholar. That gentleman, probably considering the Shaykh a puny descendant from the

\* This letter was an answer to an inquiry made by me to the writer, formerly one of my pupils at University College, who it was that informed him I had lost my Fellowship at the College of Physicians in consequence of my advocacy of mesmerism. He had written to me, stating that he had received information to this effect from a medical man sent from London by the Board of Health into Cornwall during the time of the Asiatic cholera, and begging to know if it was true. In replying to him that it was utterly false, I requested to know the name of his informant.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

mighty men of Egypt's olden time, began with believing that the power really existed. Other experimenters, endued with less *credenciveness*—to use a lately imported word—followed him; and even he, I am told, is now convinced that the magician's chief virtue resided in an intimacy with Usman Bey, a Scotch renegade, who taught him the difference between a turban and a bonnet, petticoat and pantaloons, our "gracious Queen and an elderly gentleman."

But even the most sceptical of the Shaykh's examiners—Sir Gardner Wilkinson for instance—testifies unconsciously to the mesmeric nature of the process. In the first place, the experimentalist, it is observed, always chooses a boy\* not arrived at the age of puberty. His reason would be that such subjects are, religiously speaking, pure and without blemish. But we can supply him with a better cause—clairvoyance, everywhere rare, is more common among the young than among the old. Secondly, we are told that in many cases the boy can see nothing in the ink but his own face, and that after a time he ends by falling asleep over it. This is mere hypnotism. And, thirdly, the subjects are sometimes thrown into a state of fear, which may last for days and even weeks. The panic is probably caused by want of proper demesmerisation.

*Au reste* there is nothing scientific in the Shaykh's prelude to his experiments—burning frankincense in a brazier, pouring ink into the boy's palm, and committing to the flames slips of paper containing the names of angels and demons. Nor, I humbly opine, exists there any sovereign potency in "pressing the MEDIAN NERVE"—"in gazing upon the ELECTRO-MAGNETIC COIN," or in "affecting the ORGAN OF INDIVIDUALITY." But at Grand Cairo, as well as in Hanover Square, professional gentlemen are keenly alive to the "doctrine of impressions."

The most interesting point in this oriental form of sub-mesmerism is the fact that it is practised in countries which now have little or no intercourse with one another. It is found, for instance, in Egypt and in Southern Persia—lands as distinct as Siberia and Spain—and this too, with hardly any perceptible difference in the process.

During a five years' residence in the delectable province of Scinde, I had frequent opportunities of hearing the operation described. And, although I never saw it performed,—the superstition of the natives and the Mephistophelean fame with which their fears had invested me were my obstacles,—

\* In Moslem countries it would be impossible to experiment upon girls.

still the number and the character of my informants left no doubt of the accuracy of their information in the main points. Stripped of all miraculous details, their account of the process was as follows.\*

The branch of magic called Vinyano, or Gahno, is now devoted almost exclusively to recovering stolen goods by means of Ihzar—summoning the appearance of the thief. The magician employs a boy or a youth not arrived at the age of puberty, and begins by directing him to gaze at a spot of ink rubbed upon his thumb-nail or painted on the bottom of a bright brass pot. During this preliminary the soothsayer recites his Azimat (charm) three different times: he then addresses the boy and orders the seeing to commence. First appears in the ink a Bhangî or sweeper—the Farrash of Egypt—who cleans the floor: he, disappearing, is followed by a host of tent-pitchers, who prepare a royal pavilion. Then comes a train of servants to spread the carpets, lay down the pillows, and prepare an elevated seat for a person of dignity. Next advances in state the king of the Jinns (genii), who, preceding his suite, enters the tent and takes his place upon the throne. The loser of the stolen goods appears before him and with raised hands prefers his complaint, upon which the potentate despatches a Chobdar or lictor to summon the thief. The latter, applied to the question in the shape of a violent bastinado, confesses all the particulars of his crime, and, after shewing the spot where the stolen goods are concealed, is dismissed from the presence.

This incantation, say the Scindians, is not of diabolical origin. It is mastered by the particular study of occult science called Taskhir, or acquiring the command of spirits. The principal part of the course is the Chillo (or forty days' fast in imitation of the great prophets), during which the scholar, living shut up in a darkened room, recites a variety of incantation-prayers, sleeps little, and meditates intensely upon subjects laid down for him by his Shaykh or spiritual teacher. The fast is a rigid one. On the first day the pupil eats his usual quantity; the next he diminishes it by half; and so on till he comes to total abstinence from meat and drink. In this state of starvation he continues as long as nature permits. When imperatively necessary, he allows himself a few mouthfuls, and gradually increases his allowance up to the fortieth day—the last of his discipline. Having personally tried this experiment for about a fortnight, I can

\* I have already described this operation in a work entitled, *Sindh, and the Races that inhabit the valley of the Indus*.

answer for the fact that it exerts a powerful effect in clearing the brain and in concentrating its energies.

Vinyano in Scinde is practiced by Hindoos as well as Moslems. This at once points out its origin—India, the fatal source of half the superstitions which have deluged the world. Thence it must have travelled through Scinde and Persia to Syria, where, as in other parts of the East, we find that a “belief in the power of calling up the dead and exhibiting the appearances of absent persons” was long current. Another step, and we trace it to ancient Greece, where instead of ink, oil, we are told, was poured into the palm of the boy. It is still practiced—however imperfectly—in Egypt and the Maghrib. And the magic mirror which shewed the Lady Geraldine to her absent lover is a proof that it was not unknown in Italy, whence it was diffused throughout mediæval Europe. Sceptical civilization rejected it as a grandam’s tale. Science has now stripped it of its fiction and laid the naked fact before our eyes.

Sir Gardner Wilkinson proposes to explain the mystery of the Cairo magician by the rational process of considering the appearances in the ink the result of leading questions addressed to the boy who is experimented upon.\*

I would ask those, who are not thoroughly satisfied by this or any other similar explanation, to witness the electro-biological process, and then to consider the following remarks.

The hot dry climates and the pure electric air of the East are favourable to animal magnetism. The fine nervous organization of the people and the excitability of their cerebral development render them highly susceptible of mesmeric influence. The magnetizer, too, is well constituted: his eye is piercing, his presence dignified, his nervous energy superabundant, and his natural powers of concentrativeness, increased by artificial exercises, assist him in obtaining complete mastery over himself and others.† He communicates with his subject by fixing his attention upon him, and by a strong silent volition, unaided by manipulating, he throws him into the sleep-waking state, when—the cerebral organs being excited, the senses paralyzed, and the imagination powerfully affected by suggestion—arise the strange phenomena treated of by mesmerists under “dominance of the will.” The fascinator mentally orders the subject to see a distant object.

\* A simple reason why the operation so often fails is, that all boys are not clairvoyants. But the magician who trades in magic only wants a certain number of piastres, which he receives for the *séance*, not for the success of the *séance*.

† This mastery over himself is well proved by his powers of hybernation and voluntary trance.

If unfit, he is simply hypnotized, or possibly he is alarmed by the mesmeric sensations he experiences. But if all the conditions of clairvoyance be present, the subject will see what he is directed to look at, passing as a picture before his eyes, and he will describe it accurately as he saw it.

I offer this explanation with less diffidence, as I have both witnessed and produced all the most improbable parts of it.

Excuse me, dear Doctor, for having trespassed so long upon your valuable space; and, with sentiments of distinguished esteem, believe me to be,

Yours very truly,

RICHARD F. BURTON, Lt. Bombay Army.  
E.I.U. Service Club, 14, St. James's Square.

XI. *Cure of acute Rheumatism.* By Mr. MARSHALL, of Halesworth. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"Dr. Hale examined—He attended Mrs. Cumming in the year 1847, 1848, 1849, and did not find any indication of insanity. Considers that the *delusions* with regard to her children are *not insane delusions*. Was in her bedroom constantly and saw *no indications of filth*. He has seen Mrs. Cumming, at least, three times a week since the 26th of last November. Believes her to be of *sound mind now*.

"On cross-examination, the witness stated it was an insane delusion when a person believed in something which did not exist and acted on that belief, or, where there was some foundation for such a belief, to carry it to an absurd and extravagant extent. *Meemierism and many sectarian beliefs were evidences of delusion, but those who professed belief in them were not necessarily insane.*"—DAILY NEWS, Jan. 21, 1852. Commission of Lunacy on Mrs. Cumming.\*

"A thoughtful judge of sentiments, books, and men, will often find reason to regret that the language of censure is so easy and undefined. It costs no labour, and needs no intellect, to pronounce the words, *foolish, stupid, dull, odious, absurd, ridiculous*. The weakest and most uncultivated mind may therefore gratify its vanity, laziness, and malice, all at once, by a prompt application of vague condemnatory words, where a wise and liberal man would not feel himself warranted to pronounce without the most deliberate consideration, and where such consideration might perhaps result in applause. Thus excellent performances, in the department of thinking or of action, might be consigned to contempt, if there were no better judges, on the authority of *those who could not so much as understand them*. A man who wishes some decency and sense to prevail in the circulation of opinions will do well, when he hears these decisions of ignorant arrogance, to call for the precise explication of the manner in which the terms of the verdict apply to the subject."—JOHN FOSTER. *Essays*. Commencement of the Essay "on the Epithet Romantic."

Halesworth, Feb. 8th, 1852.

DEAR Sir,—If you think the case worth communicating to

\* How deep must be the regret of Dr. Francis Hawkins (*Zoist*, No. XXIII., p. 213; XXIV., p. 399) and of Dr. James Arthur Wilson (No. XXXI.) that Dr. Hale is not of the College of Physicians, but only one of the College of Surgeons and Apothecaries' Hall. They must consider that

"Dignus, dignus est intrare  
In nostrum docto corpore."

MOLIERE, *Malade Imaginaire*.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

the valuable *Zoist*, I have the pleasure to inform you that it will be done with the full consent of the young lady. She will be happy to reply to any questions touching upon the following statements, which are a copy of a note I received from her.

Miss Baker was attacked in July last with acute rheumatism, which rendered her quite helpless. For two months she was attended by eminent medical professors. Her health slightly improved, but she still remained in a perfectly helpless condition. She was advised by some friends to try mesmerism; and at last resolved, although at that time she had little faith in its success. The operation was repeated three times a week: and, at the end of the third week, she was able to walk without assistance,—an exercise which she had not performed independently for three months. She has been occasionally mesmerised up to the present day (which is at the latter end of December) the time I received this written testimony from her: and, with the exception of a slight stiffness at the knees, the cure is complete, which she feels justified in attributing to mesmerism.

I have two or three more cases of cures, which I shall be happy to forward, should this be considered worth inserting.

I am, yours obediently,

W. MARSHALL, Draper.

To John Elliotson, Esq., London.

As I wished for further information, Mr. Marshall favoured me with a second letter.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

Halesworth, Feb. 18th, 1852.

Dear Sir,—As I took no notes of Miss Baker's case, I will give you the particulars as far as I am able, with the assistance of a friend who was generally present. But it is her particular wish that the names of the medical men should not be published, therefore I have not sent them.

Miss Baker was living in London when first attacked with rheumatism: and at the end of a fortnight was completely set fast. She applied to eminent medical men, as stated in my last: but received no benefit. After remaining in this helpless condition for more than two months, she was removed to this town, but continued using various things, recommended by those gentlemen, until I saw her: when, at my request she entirely left them off, and gave herself up to mesmerism; but not without some reluctance. I commenced by placing my hand upon her head; and in two or three minutes I perceived some effect had been produced. I then took her hands in the customary way, when her eyes

instantly closed; but she remained quite conscious, and, if I spoke, she would just open them, look at me, and then dose off again. I could deepen the sleep at any time by placing my fingers on her eyes for a minute or so. I began in about five minutes making passes from her head downwards, resting a short time at the knees. After making several passes in this way, I acted upon her arms and hands, one of which was quite drawn together and had been so for more than a month. I applied a gold ring to that hand when in the mesmeric state, and also while she was awake, from which she received considerable benefit. In about twenty minutes she came to herself, and I then asked her how she felt. She expressed herself as much better. She felt considerable warmth from my hands, and compared it to hot steam; and, when I applied the rings, was much hotter.

I continued mesmerising her two or three times a week, producing nothing but simple sleep. But the benefit she received each time was very striking, and quite surprised her friends. When I first saw her, she was in a very depressed state of mind, and her countenance had a dejected pinched appearance: and no wonder, for she was frequently kept awake all night suffering the most excruciating pains. In about a month the pain entirely ceased: and the natural healthy color appeared in her cheeks.

I visited her a few times afterwards, and she thanked me very kindly for my attention: and these are the words she made use of,—“I think I shall do now, for my health is *better than it was previously to my being attacked.*”

I would just add, that she is now about to take a situation. Trusting you will look over the manner in which I have put these few observations together,

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

W. MARSHALL.

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## XII. Visual and acoustic illusions and hallucination, with Clairvoyance.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

SIR,—In perusing the Swedish medical journal, *Hygiea*, I found in the number for January last the following case related by Dr. A. J. Bjöck, of Östersund, which seems to me of a nature to interest many of the readers of your valuable journal, especially if accompanied by some observations from yourself. Mrs. H.'s case, which in a purely medical point of view might be considered as a *delirium uterinum torpidum*, evidently belongs to those phenomena which characterize an

idio-clairvoyant state of a higher order. Therefore, it seems to me to deserve a place among those facts in which the pages of *The Zoist* are so rich.

I am, Sir, &c.,  
A. GEORGIN.

"Mrs. H., aged 23—24, and married four years since, had passed through the usual complaints of childhood. When 13 she had a nervous fever, during which she was confined to her bed for nearly four months. Since that period she has had no serious illness, only now and then suffering from nervousness and occasionally from cardialgia. She was never hysterical: but, like the other members of her family, was rather of a phlegmatic temperament, and not in the least inclined to the supernatural.

"In the middle of February, 1847, her husband being away on a journey, she saw one night the following apparition. Before putting out the light, she fancied that the door was thrown open, and a man rushed in with an open knife in his hand, with which he stabbed her husband in the breast, who, as it seemed to her, was lying by her side in the bed. The vision was so palpable that she fancied she felt the warm blood spouting over her. She did not lose consciousness, but called in the servants, who found the room door actually open. She did not mention the apparition to them: but the terror she experienced made her so feeble that for several weeks afterwards she was obliged to keep her bed. Time passed without further apparitions: but she remained in a nervous and irritable state till the 1st of September, when she was safely delivered of a boy. Eight days after her confinement, the first apparition, whose features, dress, &c., were so deeply imprinted upon her memory, again appeared, and persecuted her daily and hourly; and, although it did not shew any murderous intentions, yet it was troublesome and audacious, and, for example, ate out of her plate, bit at her bread and butter, and so forth. At the end of October there appeared another person, associated with the former, and whose dress and physiognomy were equally palpable, so that she could accurately describe both. One evening about this period, in accompanying Mrs. H. from a supper-party, I observed that she suddenly changed colour and became pale with terror, in consequence of seeing both apparitions peeping at her through the glass door which opened into the parlour. Daylight or candlelight, however, were always requisite to enable her to see them. She was not aware of ever having seen either of these persons before.



"The company was increased in the middle of December by an uncle of hers, who had been dead ten years. She ventured one day to address him, and got an answer. For the most part she declined to mention the purport of this conversation; but, when at the request of her husband or relatives she put questions to her uncle about persons either dead or distant, he answered some of the questions satisfactorily, some otherwise; sometimes no answers at all were given. The apparition appointed a meeting with her in the parlour every day at 11 o'clock, and shewed much disappointment if she were not there. I was present at two of these extraordinary meetings. I found Mrs. H. in an excited state, her mind however perfectly composed. She was sitting on a sofa with the apparition, with whom she conversed in perfect illusion, partly answering his questions, partly putting questions to him on her own account, or others suggested by myself, and which, so far as I was concerned, were truly answered. Out of these I will mention, as examples, only two cases. The person above named was a clerk in the post-office during the first part of my studentship at the University of Upsala, and he lived in the same house with me. The identity of this person with Mrs. H.'s uncle was entirely unknown to me up to this time, and I had mentioned nothing of it to any one until I suddenly asked him if he knew me. Mrs. H. delivered as his answer the above particulars. The second time that I was present, Mrs. H. said her uncle entirely prohibited the application of mesmerism, because it would make her ill and she would probably never wake again. I was greatly astonished at this; for some days previously I had spoken to her husband about mesmerism, obtaining an express promise from him not to mention a word about it, which he asseverated that he had not done. For the rest, the conversations at which I was present had so Swedenborgian an aspect that I took it for granted she must have diligently studied the writings of Swedenborg; but, upon questioning her, she did not even know the name of that seer.

"Her uncle furthermore informed her about the two first apparitions, and even mentioned their names, saying that the first had been in love with her, and that the second was an intimate friend of his: both had been dead for some years.

"While I was absent in the summer, the company was gradually increased, partly by her own deceased relations, partly by persons entirely unknown to her; so that, immediately before and after the birth of a second child on the

2nd of September, all the chairs and places in the room were taken up by the ghosts. She says that at last she became accustomed to this numerous company, and was very little or not at all alarmed, except when she saw inanimate objects set in motion by the spirits; as, the key was turned in the lock of the door, and the door opened, a chair moved, &c., &c. This frightened her still. The uncle sat at the bed foot during the whole time of the illness of the boy, until it died on the 16th September, when all at once the apparitions vanished, and they have not since reappeared. According to the unanimous declaration of the family, the child was wonderfully like the uncle. The patient is now, December 19, 1849, in sound health of body and mind."

P.S. You will find this account in the new edition of *Mallet's Northern Antiquities*, published by Bohn, pp. 533—538. Whatever may be made of such anomalous occurrences, they at least, as you have so nobly shewn, demand investigation, and can no longer be pooch-pooched. This saga is particularly valuable, as shewing the way adopted to break the spell of ghosts.

It is to be regretted that the ignorance of phrenology amongst medical men in general, and the prejudices against this important science, prevent them in cases like this giving any details on the cerebral conformation of the patient, as it would be a matter of deep interest to ascertain whether the nervous organization might not belong to those who manifest that state of sensitiveness which *à la Reichenbach* would be called an odic constitution.

A. GEORGIN.

\* \* For an explanation of the truths of this interesting case, we particularly refer our readers to an article *On the Superstitions of Mesmerism*, by Dr. Elliotson, in No. XXIX., p. 68. See Nos. XVII., XIX., for Clairvoyance in Insanity.—*Zoist*.

### XIII. *Cure of singular attacks of apparent Coma.*

By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

"Of the present Fellows of the College of Physicians, there are at least two who have fallen into *condign disgrace*, and one is a member of the University of Cambridge,\* the other of the University of Oxford."†—Mr. WAKLEY, *Lancet*, April 16, 1852.

\* Dr. Elliotson.

† Dr. Thomas Mayo. He does not name Dr. Billing, who is the third Fellow "fallen into *condign disgrace*."

"We have little reason to boast as we do of our civilization when we look at the reception which every discovery of principles new or strange receives, not at the hands of the uneducated multitude merely, but from men who are supposed to read and think more deeply than even the mass of educated men. Medical men especially have been famous for the brutal vehemence of their prejudices, from the time of Harvey to that of one scarcely less eminent and scarcely less a martyr than the discoverer of the circulation of the blood. We mean Dr. Elliotson. Every intelligent man knows what a storm of ridicule and invective phrenology has had to encounter in its steady advances to the position of a science now almost universally acknowledged—its phraseology being used even by those who still dispute many of its facts. Mesmerism and clairvoyance are reaching the same goal through the same ordeal. Learned and educated and eminent men, such as Elliotson and Esdaile, are denounced as humbugs and quacks because they will not refuse to believe their eyes and their experience, and mesmerism and clairvoyance are *ex cathedra* condemned by parties who have never taken a single step to bring those discoveries to the test of experiment. A learned counsellor is vastly amused and county justices are greatly shocked because Dr. Davey professes to believe that which he has studied and that which he has practised. Dr. Esdaile in Calcutta, ridiculed at first, finally convinced the whole of an intelligent press and community, and was not only allowed but encouraged to relieve human suffering by means of mesmerism. Dr. Davey has cured people by the same agency, and the *Ceylon Times* is delighted with the sagacious justices who will have no mummeries practised—no 'American experiments' tried which they don't understand and won't examine. It is the old story and the old logic:—'I hate the French for they are all slaves and wear wooden shoes.' So our modern wisacres hate mesmerists who pretend to cut off limbs without giving pain, and clairvoyants because they dare to see while their eyes are shut. This is the same spirit which attempted to explode heresy by burning heretics, and it will be equally successful. Mesmerism is established beyond all doubt. The kindred phenomena of clairvoyance are strange and puzzling and often uncertain. But there are brave and persevering spirits pursuing the enquiry, as well as quacks and pretenders who bring the truth of this as of all other science into disgrace; and by and by the wheat will be separated from the chaff, the truth sifted from falsehood and uncertainty. In the meantime lawyers, and doctors, justices and editors will go on proving their sympathy with the spirit of the dark ages by denouncing that which they do not understand and will not calmly examine."—*Ceylon Overland Observer*, April 14, 1852.

On the 3rd of February, 1851, a young lady from Devonshire, one and twenty years old, was brought to my house by her mother, carried from the carriage by a man-servant into my library in a state of apparent coma, and placed in an easy chair. Her mother told me that she would presently be perfectly herself. This proved true: for in a minute or two she suddenly opened her eyes, sat upright, and was instantly as wide awake as the rest of us.

It appeared that, as soon as she was ever raised from the recumbent or sitting posture, she fell into this apparent coma, and remained with her eyes closed, rigid, and unable to move or speak, till she was set down either quite flat or at some inclination. She therefore could not walk or stand, or even kneel; for these conditions of course took her from the recumbent or sitting postures. But she could of course raise herself from the recumbent to the sitting posture, or lie down when sitting; and also move herself along on a sofa, and

could allow her legs to hang down or be supported indifferently, without any appearance of coma. The removal of pressure from the lower part of the body was the circumstance which produced the apparent coma:\* but occasionally this

\* See a similar phenomenon in the case of Master William Salmon, of No. 22, Red Lion Street, Holborn, whom I cured by mesmerism only of frightful attacks, &c., &c., in 1839, and whose cure is declared in *Zoist*, No. III., p. 314.

"On January 26th, 1839, I was summoned to him, late in the afternoon, and found him lying on a couch, so paralyzed that not only could he not walk, but he *could not raise his head* in the least from the pillow, or move it to one side. *If others raised him even a few inches, he became insensible*; or, as the family said, fainted. Of all this I satisfied myself. A fit which had taken place twelve days before had left him thus paralyzed in the legs and trunk and neck.

"Though I had just resigned at University College because I was not allowed to cure my patients with mesmerism, the father had no view to mesmerism, and gave me pen, ink, and paper to write a prescription. But knowing, as all medical men in their hearts do, that medicine in the majority of cases of epilepsy and numerous other nervous afflictions is of no, of little, or of secondary use, whatever number of pills and bottles are consumed and other appliances made, I said nothing, but went to my carriage, and requested Mr. Wood who was in it to come and help me mesmerise a patient. We returned to the house. I raised the child to the sitting posture, and *almost immediately* he became comatose, as many epileptic and hysterical patients are in the habit of becoming between the perfect fits or when perfect fits have not yet shewn themselves. He was not pale, nor was his pulse altered:—the state was coma, not fainting. I restored him to the horizontal position and *made transverse passes* before his chest and face; and he awoke suddenly and perfectly, with the *usual sudden inspiration* which I had always seen characterize the return of the Okeys and many other mesmerised patients to the waking state. The parents said that the return to consciousness was much more rapid than they had ever seen it before,—shewing that his state was really mesmeric. I then, without saying a word, took Mr. Wood's hand, and he the father's, and with the other hand I made passes before the child from his face downwards as he lay. His eyelids *presently* began to droop, and in about five minutes nearly closed, and were in a state of rapid tremor. His jaw had become locked; and he could not be roused by rough shaking, nor did he appear to hear, except that clapping the hands in his face increased the tremulous contraction of his eyelids. I made passes along his arm and hand and the extremity extended and rose, and presently fell: then passes transversely, and it somewhat moved transversely: and the longitudinal passes on being repeated caused his extremity to extend and rise again. The child was ignorant of mesmerism and sleep-waking or somnambulism; but beautifully displayed, though unprepared for my mesmeric proceedings, the phenomena of mesmerism and sleep-waking. He was fast asleep, as his breathing and indifference shewed. He fell asleep in the true mesmeric manner, his eyelids closed and trembled, and his jaw was locked. Nothing could be more genuine. To talk of imposition would be posterous, and only display ignorance of the subject."

"I next moved Master Salmon's legs by vertical tractive movements; and then tried his head. It soon began to move as if an effort were made to raise it. Mr. Wood and myself made the movements together, and the effort became greater and greater, till at last the boy raised it from the pillow,—a thing he had not done for ten days. It soon fell back again. But we persevered again and again, till he rose into the sitting posture. The more we slowly retreated in making these tractive movements, the stronger appeared to be the influence. Every time we had retreated as far as the room would allow, he fell back powerless. At last, after having drawn him into the sitting posture, we made tractive passes from the top of his head upwards; and this soon made him elevate his head, and then elevate his whole frame till he positively stood erect on the floor. We had moved him to the foot of the couch with his legs hanging down, before I tried to make

seized her when in a carriage, and always if the carriage turned suddenly or went upon a rough piece of road. A warm hip-bath once induced a severe attack of it which lasted for many hours.

I have said *apparent* coma: because, though unable to speak or open her eyes or move at all, she was all the time conscious, as she declared and proved on returning to her ordinary state.

The following particulars were communicated to me.

When a child, her intellect was dull and her back weak, and she was fat. During a bilious fever she was treated with violent cathartics for a fortnight, so violent that they occasioned prolapsus of the bowels, and left her nervous, pale, thin, tremulous: and she was taken to the Continent.

For five years before the constitutional change, she abhorred flesh food and took none: and in the year before her present illness studied very hard, and read at night. The change at once took place from fright: but there was no recurrence till a year had expired, and then the function became regular *and had been so ever since*, but, what is singular, only night and morning: always without pain. *The bowels too had always been regular.*

I mention these circumstances particularly: because it is too much the custom to ascribe disease to disturbance of the uterus or torpidity of the bowels. These disturbances are often present in such cases: but not so often the cause, as merely one of the circumstances of the general unhealthy condition of the system. The abhorrence of flesh food is very common in the nervous affections of young females: and the small quantity of food upon which they subsist is often astonishing.

When thirteen or fourteen years old, she was seized with a feverish attack, and a loud remarkably sounding cough. Notwithstanding medical advice, the indisposition rapidly increased, and the spasmodic cough changed after a few days to frequent attacks of apparent insensibility, which was called fainting, and accompanied by rigidity of the limbs, a rapid pulse, and what is termed ecstatic delirium with beautiful visions. This state occurred in the beginning of 1839 in my

him stand. I walked backwards making tractive passes from him to me, and he slowly followed me. The father and mother were petrified, and called in their people from the shop to witness the strange sight of their child with his head nodding in sleep and slowly moving after me, though unable to raise his head an inch or move his legs at all a quarter of an hour before. The room was behind the shop and small; and I opened the door, receded into the shop, and he slowly followed me. I turned into the room again, making the tractive passes, and he went round it after me."

patient, Miss Emma Melhuish, of Bedford Street, Red Lion Street, Holborn, and produced, in the midst of insensibility to all external things, such an expression of holy rapture as charmed the very numerous persons, many of great talent, whom I was kindly allowed to take to see her.\*

During the whole period of liability to the apparent coma, the attacks had sometimes continued many hours: and once lasted without intermission for three days.

She gradually recovered to a certain extent, so that she bore lifting into a carriage and enjoyed a drive: but a sudden turn of the carriage and roughness of a piece of the road had still carefully to be avoided. She ate flesh food at the time she came to me, and her feet were, as they had been throughout the illness, very cold. She was feeble, and her loins doubled on her hips if she attempted to stand. Of course many practitioners in the country and some of eminence in London had been consulted, but with almost no benefit,—none in regard to the attacks of apparent coma.

She was treated at Bath, Clifton, and Tiverton. Some gave her the *most violent* cathartics; and their operation would wake her up for a few minutes from the coma. Some gave her musk; some opium; some quinine; some valerian:

\* "In a few minutes the fits began, and were longer and more terrific than I had ever seen them, and several additional actions took place between the convulsive fits, at the end of the fits of rigidity, after she had sit up and pushed her head forwards. One of the new actions consisted in looking upwards with heavenly smiles, and clasping her hands together, as if praying; another was crossing her hands upon her bosom, and looking upwards as if in holy hope and submission; another was the expression of attentive and delighted listening.

"From that time forward, this addition to the fits of rigidity took place thirty or forty times a day; for the fits of rigidity were constantly occurring, and thought nothing of, on account of the horrible nature of the convulsive fits. These beautiful ecstatic fits began with her arms suddenly extending and her hands becoming closed; then she rose into a sitting position in her bed; then pushed her head forward, stared, and protruded her lips; and, as soon as this, the 'stiff fit' had gone so far, instead of its terminating as usual, she assumed all the attitudes of holy rapture: her hands clasped, or on her bosom, or pointing to the skies; her head and shoulders inclined first in this direction, then in that; and her eyes looking upwards in the successive directions with a beauty of expression unsurpassed by the paintings of Raphael and all other Italian masters. Her countenance became exquisitely beautiful on these occasions. After going through a series of those attitudes and expressions in silence, for two or three minutes, she always sunk back senseless, and then went into her sleep-waking or delirium, whichever was present when the fit began."

The case is fully detailed in No. IV., p. 429, &c.

This exquisite case, and that of Master Salmon, like all the other nervous diseases which are described at full length in *The Zoist*, deserves the study of every one who desires to be thoroughly acquainted with extraordinary nervous affections and the use of mesmerism. Neither Miss Melhuish nor Master Salmon has had any return of her or his complaint to this hour. She is as susceptible of mesmerism as ever: he proved perfectly insusceptible at many trials made soon after his cure, and no attempt has been made since.

some were anxious to plunge her into cold water, but her mother would not consent. The gentleman who gave the violent cathartics could say only, "Hysteria! hysteria!" give his cathartic again, and again say, "Hysteria! hysteria!" Mesmerism was too gross a "folly," "fraud," and "delusion," for any of them to waste a thought upon, or make them desert our old useless routine of musk, opium, quinine. and valerian, and distressing violent cathartics, so often injurious in the nervous affections of young persons.

The exquisite cure of Miss Bernal, the daughter of the member for Rochester, and sister of the member for Middlesex, which was detailed by herself in No. XVIII. of *The Zoist*, had reached the despairing mother by Lady —, who was acquainted with both families: and she therefore brought her daughter to me.

I advised all medicines to be given up, as I had found by too much experience that their only effect in similar cases is to render the poor patient's life more miserable by their various effects and by the disgust of incessantly swallowing what is nauseous. The mother spoke of mesmerism, and I therefore at once gave my true opinion, that it was the only means worth adopting: that it was very likely to cure her: could do no harm, and was almost sure to do good in some respect or other: though I followed a rule of never promising a cure by it or any other treatment in any disease. I gave her the name of Mrs. Cooper, a married lady, then residing at No. 29, Somerset Street, Portman Square, who went out mesmerising.

Mesmerism was immediately commenced, and repeated at nine o'clock every evening. On the 7th of February, I, having been first consulted upon the 3rd, received a note from the mother, dated February the 7th, Bryanstone Square, informing me that the effect had been great heaviness and weariness, and a desire to sleep during the process, but no sleep till the patient went to bed, and that then she slept soundly all night: that, on the third night, the mesmeriser, not contented with proceeding thus quietly, said before leaving the house that,—

"Next time she would try to get her into a clairvoyant state, and see what the patient would say was good for herself; and that therefore last night (the fourth night) her efforts were directed to that object, and she soon succeeded: she brought on a wonderful condition of mind and of body most distressing to witness; for it so much resembled her illness of the last autumn, when Mr. — attended her for a sort of bilious or liver attack, in which her symptoms were sickness, which appeared connected with the head; so

she thought: but he, from the tongue, believed the seat of the disorder to be the liver, being obstructed. She was daily for ten days (beginning her mornings clear) wandering in the most exalted and beautiful language, speaking distressing things of birds beating themselves against a tower, and a hundred other imaginations—all in exquisite rhythm, in a most musical, delicate tone of voice—turning to the wall. Of course she was in bed; and if no one was with her but her sister, or the maid, or the brother who is just gone to India, she would run on in these wild fancies; but if I came, there seemed to be more sympathy, and I could draw her off into a sort of conversation, and carry her into reason again. The same occurred when her eldest brother, a very powerful little man, returned from his regiment in Ireland on leave. He with a sort of playful *wit* bandied about his words, and she would at last laugh and be right: but none of the others had the power. She ran through French and Italian in the same way wonderfully. Last night the manner was the same nearly, the subjects were however different. It was first a wish to know what her dear brother Newton was doing (we are in anxiety, having had no letter); a burst of crying; then, a desire of curing me of my illnesses, and that repeatedly; and she told me what she believed would do to make me sleep; then, with difficulty, would she mind herself, for she was the same unselfish creature as ever; but she said she *thought* (not *sure*, as it was a new thing to her) strong coffee—the essence of coffee as it were, would do her good. She spoke of poor Catherine Barrow, with a reasonable fear that she might have been too long in her state, but that mesmerism *might* do her good: it was half reason and half exalted, and all the time she expressed herself as very uncomfortable—so wearied and so confused, and that it was a new state, like what she had been in the last illness. Her eyes were shut, and very black round them, and she kept rubbing them, or stroking her head, or twisting a bit of her long hair, as if she was disturbed and distressed, and yet she did not wish to leave that condition. Her hands grew very cold, but she did not feel them so. She had the coffee, and then she was awoke. Mrs. C. gave her two hours at least instead of one, being delighted at her own success; wished you could have seen it—you would have been so pleased: said it was like that young lad, and that to-night and the next night there will be a great progress, and that it will be as she had told her husband, she will walk round the room, and be certainly cured, and able to cure others as a mesmerist. The idea of curing *others* was delicious to me. Then she *should* be useful instead of useless; then she might be something like a *sœur de charité*. She would cure mamma and the poor people; and once when Mrs. C. put forth her two hands before her invitingly, she put one of her's in one of Mrs. C.'s, and very nearly the other, and made a little effort on being asked to get down her legs as if to follow her, but did no more."

This excitement was not calculated to do any good: and resulted, possibly, from the mesmeriser boasting that she



would now direct her measures to produce clairvoyance. Nothing should be said to patients about phenomena intended or expected. The course of mesmerisation should be conducted silently, calmly, patiently, kindly, unostentatiously. I have no idea how clairvoyance is to be produced: nor did I ever produce it. When it occurs, it comes forth, I believe, spontaneously.

Patients do not recover the more frequently or the sooner for exhibiting wonderful phenomena: though they certainly appear strengthened by being rendered rigid, subjected to traction and some other experiments, and the better for being kept in a state of cheerful excitement during their sleep-waking. As to learning of the present patient what would do her good, mesmerism was the measure resolved upon to do her good, and had not been tried more than four times, was making her sleepy and giving her good nights: there was therefore no reason yet to search about for further information and disturb the established course of mesmeric treatment.

Probably none of these disturbances would have taken place had the mesmerisation proceeded quietly in the usual unostentatious manner. However, they subsided; no more harm was done, and the plain good effects of mesmerism took place: so that, after the eighth mesmerisation from the first, I received a joyful note from the mother, beginning with the words, "My daughter walks!" The eighth put an end for ever to the attacks for which I was consulted, and restored her permanently to health, though she had been ill four years and three quarters—from May 25, 1846, to February 11, 1851, and, in the words of an account written out for me by the young lady,

"She had almost given up all hope of recovery, so that no one felt more surprised at her sudden and unexpected restoration. Any person," her account concludes, "who wishes to learn her name from a better motive than curiosity, may do so through Dr. Elliotson or Mrs. Cooper: and she will feel the greatest pleasure in answering any questions, if by so doing she can be of service to others."

After my first interview with this young lady, I did not see her again till she called to thank me some time subsequent to her recovery. She has remained free from her complaint now for a year and a quarter.

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XIV. *London Mesmeric Infirmary.*

THE Annual General Meeting of the supporters of the London Mesmeric Infirmary was held on Thursday the 27th of May, at Willis's Rooms, King Street, St. James's. Such was the assemblage of ladies and gentlemen, that the room which had been engaged was absolutely crammed, and the staircase crowded, so that an adjournment was made to the great room in which the Almack balls take place. There were between six and seven hundred persons present.

On the motion of Mr. Frere, of Stamford Brook, Chiswick, Earl Stanhope, one of the vice-presidents, was unanimously voted to the chair. His Lordship thus addressed the meeting,—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—Although I consider it a distinguished honour to be called to the chair of this meeting, there are now present several of my learned friends, on any one of whom it would, from his medical knowledge and experience, have been far more worthily bestowed. From a very early period of my long life I have taken the deepest interest in all that relates to medical science, to which I attach the greatest value, as it has for its object that which is most important to mankind—the alleviation of sufferings, and, when it is practicable, the restoration of health, which is, I need not say, the first of all blessings, and requisite to the enjoyment of every other. As soon as mesmerism revived in this country, where it had slumbered for many years, I was very curious to witness the trials that were made in the hospital of the London University by Baron Dupotet, and was much interested in observing that they exhibited phenomena, both of a physical and psychological nature, which seemed to me eminently entitled to a philosophical investigation. I was not discouraged in pursuing the inquiry by an observation made in the *Globe* newspaper, that my attendance at those exhibitions ought to be considered a proof of my insanity; but, if all those who are now convinced of the truth and importance of mesmerism were to be treated as insane persons, I do not believe that all the lunatic asylums in the country would be sufficiently capacious to contain them. The more I examined the facts, the more strongly was I convinced of their reality; the more I studied mesmerism, the more firmly was I impressed with its extreme importance and practical utility. Such being the opinions which I had formed after a careful observation and mature consideration, I avowed them openly, and I have always thought that the worst and most discreditable species of cowardice is the want

of moral courage. Those who are deficient in personal courage may allege as an apology that they have weak nerves, and a bodily constitution which renders them unwilling, and perhaps unable, to expose themselves to danger. But no excuse can be made for those who, being fully and conscientiously convinced of a truth, are ashamed or afraid to avow that such is the case. It is fortunate for the world—fortunate also for the honour and dignity of the medical profession, that some physicians have been found, who, disregarding fame and fortune and those objects which are the most prized, and the most eagerly pursued, have nobly, magnanimously sacrificed them in the cause of truth. They may be reviled or ridiculed—they may be assailed by censures or by sarcasms, but their names will be transmitted with imperishable honour to posterity, and they will have the satisfaction to reflect that truth will ultimately prevail. To mesmerism we may apply what is said in the Holy Scriptures, "Great is truth, and stronger than all things. It endureth, and is always strong; it liveth and conquereth for evermore." Such was the force of prejudice with which mesmerism had to contend, that, in one instance at least which came to my knowledge, it obstructed the course of justice; and, as the case is somewhat curious, I will, with your permission, narrate it briefly. About nine years ago a young woman, who was afflicted with epileptic fits, and who had in consequence been obliged to leave her place, applied to me for assistance. I found on the very first trial that she was so susceptible of the influence as to fall into a mesmeric sleep in about a quarter of a minute. On returning home she was seized with a fit, and I was informed, which I ought to have been much sooner, that it had lasted four hours, and with such violence that several men had been employed in holding her. I went immediately to see her; and I found that the fit had produced tetanus, or lock-jaw, and she attempted to relieve it by forcing between her teeth a blunt, or what is called, a ripping chisel, which she used as a lever. The sound occasioned by that operation was such as induced me to fear that she might break her jaws, which relapsed at once to their former position; but, after I had made a few mesmeric passes over them, she opened them without difficulty, and said, "No doctor could have done this." On the following day it was my duty to attend a county meeting, and as I was in that year obliged to be much in London, the opportunities which I had to mesmerise her were "few and far between." I had however the good fortune to cure her complaint, she returned to service, and I heard nothing more of her for some years, when I learned

that a man by whom she was employed had in a fit of anger seized her by the throat and attempted to throttle her. He was in consequence taken before a magistrate, who considered the case to be so serious that he refused to inflict a summary conviction, and desired it to be tried by another tribunal. The alarm that was caused by the assault renewed her epileptic fits, of which she was very speedily cured by my learned friend, Dr. Elliotson, whose eminent services cannot be sufficiently commended. The case was at last tried by the late Mr. Law, the Recorder, when the complainant was asked by the counsel for the defendant whether she had ever been exhibited as a mesmeric patient, which she denied; and, amongst other absurd questions, whether she was quite sure that she was not in a mesmeric sleep when she was assaulted. An inquiry was made by whom she was mesmerised. Great surprise was expressed when my name was mentioned, and the result was that she was considered an impostor—that the assault remained unpunished, although it had been regarded by the magistrate as an offence which was too important for a summary conviction. Some of the opponents of mesmerism have shewn a very disgraceful want of candour, and have in some instances been guilty of flagrant injustice. I allude, amongst other cases, to that of a labourer in Nottinghamshire, whose leg had been amputated, while he was in a mesmeric state, without his feeling any pain. Some medical persons in London denied that this was possible, and had the effrontery to represent him as an impostor. But they had no right to calumniate any individual, whether he is a prince or a peasant, without having proofs to substantiate the charge. The folly of the imputation was equal to its malignity; for, even if it could be supposed that the labourer had, without any assignable motive, and by an extraordinary command over himself, been able to repress the cries and groans and shrieks which he would have uttered during the operation, there would have been other physical manifestations of suffering which would not have escaped the notice of the surgeons and of those who were present. Those who denied that the mesmeric influence could produce insensibility to pain, must have been somewhat surprised to find that chloroform had the same effect; and they are as unable to explain in regard to chloroform, as we are in regard to mesmerism, the mode in which that insensibility is produced. I rejoice that chloroform is now so extensively employed, and I am ready to admit that it may be applied with success to those who are not susceptible of mesmeric influence. But I contend that, when mesmerism can be used, it is much safer in its opera-

tion, and this opinion will, I am sure, be confirmed by the judgment of the learned friends whom I see near me. Innumerable cases have occurred in the East Indies, as well as in this country, of the most painful surgical operations having been performed under the mesmeric influence without any suffering to the patients; and I ask whether such effects could be produced by imagination? Several persons have ascribed to the force of imagination the phenomena of mesmerism, and I am well aware that, as some disorders have been caused by imagination, it is possible that they may be cured by imparting to it a contrary direction. Though it should be admitted, for the sake of the argument, that imagination is the real agent in the cures which have been performed by mesmerism, no valid objection could be urged by its opponents against the employment of a remedy so simple, so easy, so efficacious, and also so safe in its operation. I deny, however, that the physical phenomena of mesmerism are the effects of imagination, or that the psychological phenomena of mesmerism, of which I will not at present speak, are to be attributed to collusion between the mesmeriser and his patient. Let those who entertain any doubt upon the physical phenomena peruse a very curious and interesting work by a Fellow of the College of Physicians, late physician to the Middlesex Hospital, Dr. John Wilson, the *Trials of Animal Magnetism on the Brute Creation*. They will find in it the results of trials on a variety of animals very different in their species and dispositions; some being tame, and some being wild; some being gentle, and some being ferocious; and some being fish, which, from their great agility, seemed very ill suited to such experiments. Animals were very judiciously selected by him for the purpose, as the effects which they exhibited, and which were very remarkable, could not be ascribed either to imagination, or to collusion. Let those who are sceptical in regard to the psychological phenomena of mesmerism, peruse the admirable and instructive *Letters* of Dr. Gregory, which contain numberless facts upon the subject, and they ought to satisfy even the most incredulous. We have been asked, what is the theory of mesmerism? and in what manner its effects are to be explained? To these most futile questions I reply, that we are not to disbelieve any facts, known and proved to be such, though we may be unable to account for them; that we find both in the animal and in the vegetable creation an infinity of phenomena which we cannot explain; that even chemical analysis is often very defective; and that no doubt was ever entertained on the operations of medicinal substances because we are ignorant

of their precise operation on the human frame. In one of Molière's comedies, a candidate for the medical profession is asked, in dog Latin, "*quare opium facit dormire?*" to which he replies,

"Quia est in eo  
Virtus dormitiva,  
Cujus est natura  
Senans assoupire;"

and I am not aware that a more reasonable answer could be returned to such an inquiry. Although we are unable to state in what manner the mesmeric influence is conveyed from the mesmeriser to his patient, it seems to operate by invigorating the restorative powers of nature, the *vis medicatrix nature*, to which we owe ultimately, under the blessing of Providence, the cure of all the various disorders which afflict mankind. It was a true, as well as a candid, confession of an eminent physician, "We do not cure disorders,—we only enable Nature to cure them." That physician could not perhaps have explained the precise action of any of his medicines, but he was not on that account the less justified in prescribing them, or the less satisfied in regard to their probable success. We all know that "facts are stubborn things," and such are those in mesmerism. We are bound to believe all facts, however extraordinary in their nature, and even when rare in their occurrence, if they are attested by sufficient evidence: and, whatever may be the theory of mesmerism, we have satisfactory and undeniable proofs, by long experience and the most accurate examination, that mesmerism has not only cured many disorders more easily and more expeditiously than could have been done in any different manner, but also those which could not otherwise have been treated with success. It would be endless, and an unwarrantable waste of your time and patience, if I were to enumerate a few only of those cases which are the most remarkable, and I will mention two only of them, one of which was witnessed by myself. I visited some years ago, in Red Lion Street, Holborn, a shopkeeper, named Salmon, whose son, then about 13 years of age, suffered from a paralysis of the spine, which rendered him unable to sit up in bed, or even to raise his head from the pillow. His father assured me that, on the very first visit of Dr. Elliotson, he was enabled to rise from his bed, and to walk across the room.\* Never shall I forget the words of the father, which were not uttered in the presence of my learned friend, or intended as a compliment to him,—“it seemed as if Dr. Elliotson had

\* See above, p. 188.

raised my son from the grave." I had the satisfaction of seeing the son afterwards at the house of Dr. Elliotson, and of finding that he had then a healthy complexion, and every appearance of health and strength and a renovated constitution, although he was, when I first saw him a few weeks before, pale, sickly, feeble, and emaciated, as if his vital powers were nearly exhausted. Need I refer also to a case of total blindness, which was an opacity of the cornea, and had continued for twenty-six years, and which was cured mesmerically, not by a medical practitioner, but by a lady, eminent in her station, and still more eminent in her benevolence.\* Could a cure have been effected, or even attempted, in either of those cases without employing mesmerism? and if not, may we not justly consider it to be what it has been termed by a reverend gentleman who is now present—"the gift of God?" We learn from the valuable record of cases which has been published by our excellent and indefatigable Secretary, Mr. Capern, to whom I wish upon this as upon every occasion to offer the humble tribute of my praise, that mesmerism has been successfully employed by him in fourteen diseases, some of which it is often very difficult, if not impracticable, to cure by other means. It gives me extreme satisfaction to know that the practice of mesmerism extends itself rapidly, and that institutions for the purpose have been established in several districts of this country; and I earnestly wish, as well as I confidently expect, that the signal benefits which it confers upon mankind may be enjoyed by future generations, even more than by the present.

Dr. Elliotson then read the following Report:—

"The Committee of the London Mesmeric Infirmary rejoice in being able to congratulate the Donors and Subscribers upon the increased support of the charity by the public,—the increased confidence of the sick and their friends in the benefits of mesmerism,—and upon the continuance of proofs of the alleviating and remedial powers of one of the greatest blessings ever vouchsafed to mankind.

"The conviction of the truth of mesmerism—of the truth of its phenomena and its alleviating and remedial powers, has spread most extensively since we last met. To doubt the mesmeric production of sleep and sleep-waking, and their dispersion; of rigidity, catalepsy, and relaxation; the mesmeric abolition and restoration of sensation; mesmeric traction; peculiar, and formerly unknown, effects of metals, crys-

\* Mrs. Whately, wife of the Archbishop of Dublin: the case is detailed in No. XXV. of *The Zoist*.

tals, and other substances in the mesmeric state, and in the ordinary state of some persons who have been in the mesmeric state, and even in some who have never been mesmerised,—is no longer regarded as a mark of sagacity and superiority, but excites surprise and causes an individual to be considered ignorant and absurd. Even such phenomena as the mesmeric excitement of distinct cerebral organs, the sympathy of sensations and ideas, and a certain degree of clairvoyance, are generally admitted, and their admission no longer subjects us to the imputation of credulity or exposes us to ridicule. Fourteen years ago, mesmerism was declared in London to be destroyed for ever, utterly extinguished, and sure to be never heard of again except as a tale that is told, illustrative of the ignorance, weakness and folly of a few individuals who had ruined their reputation irrecoverably. But now mesmerism is one of the chief topics of conversation, and is alluded to as a fact in publications of every description: the sale of mesmeric books is very large and has increased astonishingly of late, and Mr. Baillière informs us that the demand for the English quarterly journal of mesmerism—*The Zoist*, far exceeds the demand of even last year. The medical journals sneer at mesmerism and vilify us less frequently than before, and, though they continue to keep all our splendid facts from the eyes of their readers, to whom it is their duty to make all these facts known, it is evident that they are conscious of being in an awkward position, behind the present day, and near an overwhelming necessity of acknowledging the truth of what they have so violently, coarsely, and obstinately denied, and of reporting mesmeric facts as regularly as others. Although the managers of the Royal College of Physicians, of the Royal College of Surgeons, and of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, still refuse to purchase mesmeric works, it is known that the members of the two latter bodies continually ask for *The Zoist*: and the desire cannot much longer be disregarded by those who ought to know better and to have more feeling for the sufferings of their fellow-creatures. The spread of the conviction of the truth of mesmerism is shewn in the additions to our list of donors and subscribers. Since the last Annual Meeting we have had 47 new donors, besides anonymous contributors of mites to the donation-box; and 38 new subscribers. Five only of our former subscribers have resigned: four expressing their regret at their inability to continue their subscriptions, and the fifth complaining that a case of St. Vitus's dance that she sent us was not cured off hand at a few sittings. Several of the donations were be-



stowed in consequence of mesmeric cures having been effected in the families of the donors, without any connexion with the Infirmary. Mr. Baillière, whose daughter's recovery from typhus will, we trust, be recorded in the next *Zoist*, has sent us, in consequence of it, five guineas through her hands. Mr. Kingdom, who has related in *The Zoist* the great benefit which he derived from mesmerism while recovering from a severe accident, has sent us ten pounds. Miss Jane Preston, who was assiduously mesmerised by Mr. Janson, has evinced her gratitude by presenting us with fifteen pounds.

"The increased confidence of the sick and their friends in the alleviating and remedial powers of mesmerism is manifested on every side, and is strikingly shewn by the numerous applications for admission to our Infirmary—far more numerous than we have the means of satisfying. They are now aware that mesmerism exerts a powerful influence, not over nervous affections only, but over the diseases of every organ and over diseases of every description,—upon inflammation, structural as well as functional diseases, enlargement, change of texture, ulceration, &c., and that it not only soothes, but invigorates. Some who are believers in its blessings are still shut out from them by the gross superstition of its satanic nature. This preposterous absurdity will continue till education becomes what it should be and points out to those upon whom it is bestowed that all around us is nature,—all governed by universal and unerring laws; and that mesmerism, like everything else that man does, must be a natural, cannot be a supernatural, affair. It may be worth the reflection of the superstitious, that we have twelve divines on our lists; the greater part of them clergymen of the Church of England, one a doctor of divinity and formerly a professor in the University of Oxford, and, at the head of them, an archbishop,—His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, who did not for a moment hesitate to become one of our vice-presidents. Another anti-satanic argument is, that above fifty ladies appear upon our list.

"Continued proofs of the assuaging and remedial powers of mesmerism pour upon us on all sides. *The Zoist* teems with them every quarter, and numberless others are occurring daily which are not recorded. Since the last meeting, a hundred and fifty-four patients have been treated at the Infirmary. Twenty were not improved at all: but the greater part of these attended too short a time for mesmerism to exert its power, thirteen of them attended but two or three times: and among them were cases of epilepsy, blindness, and consumption. Nineteen were slightly improved, and the greater

part of these left us before there was any chance of a cure. Thirty-nine were much improved,—so much that they did not think it worth while to attend any longer, though we should have wished them still to persevere for some weeks : but persons in all ranks and of all ages and education are disposed to impatience, and the poor have but too many causes of inability to attend an institution daily for any time. Forty-two have been cured. Thirty-four are still under treatment ; and of these ten are already greatly improved, and some have not been with us long enough for benefit to be expected. It must be remembered that the majority of our cases are chronic : that most of them have defied medical treatment, generally at the hands of several practitioners : and that many are certain of receiving no amelioration from any kind of non-mesmeric treatment.

“ We may be permitted to mention a few examples of the rapidity with which mesmerism occasionally cures pain.

“ A man, named Benjamin Dickinson, living at No. 1, Store Street, was attacked with violent gout in his right foot on Saturday the 14th of last June. The agony was so intense that for eight and forty hours he could not have put his foot to the ground had a room full of gold been offered to him,—to use the words of a statement in our possession by one of his friends,—Mr. Job, of No. 7, Newman Street. On the Monday he applied at the Infirmary by the advice of his friends, but, in the words of a statement written for us by himself, ‘ *he did so with the full impression that it would do no good.*’ In less than ten minutes after Mr. Capern had begun to mesmerise the foot, he was free from pain ; and, though he had been conveyed to the Infirmary in a cab, he walked home without requiring even a stick : and soon he put on his boot. He has not had a relapse.

“ A man, named James Soars, living at No. 12, Giltspur Street, had suffered five days from agonizing rheumatism of the head. Having seen Mr. Capern’s book of mesmeric cures, he applied at the Infirmary in August. A statement in his own handwriting declares that ‘ the pains were continuous, and often inexpressible ; insomuch that, had he not called in Bedford Street, he must have discontinued his work.’ Mesmerism by Mr. Capern entirely and permanently removed the pain in six or seven minutes.

“ Mary Clarkson, of Gloster Street, Cambridge Heath, has left us this statement:—‘ I had pain in the limbs for three years : the hands and feet were at times contracted and almost useless. I applied at the Mesmeric Infirmary on the 10th of November, 1851, having severe pain at the time in

the arms and shoulders. Mr. Capern immediately mesmerised me, and in an amazingly short time entirely relieved me from all pain; and I had a good night the first time for three years.' Mesmerism was continued; but she attended regularly for a fortnight only. However, on the 9th of December she considered herself cured. Sleep was induced the second time of her being mesmerised, and she invariably was free from pain during the process. She left from the necessity of going to Dublin: and this is greatly to be regretted, as we learnt that she had an open cancer of the breast.

"Elizabeth Reid, in the service of Miss Temple Bowdoin, had suffered above a month with agonizing neuralgic pains of the head. All ordinary means had failed to relieve her. Mr. Capern was very busy when she applied and could therefore mesmerise her for a short time only, and relieved her but little. At the second mesmerisation, however, great benefit was obtained; and her natural sleep returned when night came. A third mesmerisation completed her cure. After a month she experienced a degree of relapse. This was completely dissipated; and the pain has never returned. Miss Bowdoin felt a pleasure in adding her signature to that of the patient in attestation of these facts, and in consequence of them has become a subscriber.

"Maria Smith, of 17, Carburton Street, had suffered from tic douloureux for five months, and been attended by different medical men in vain. The pain sometimes prevented her from speaking for hours: and sometimes a whole day from eating. She applied on the 20th of December; was greatly relieved by Mr. Capern at the first mesmerisation; and cured in six.

"James Umdallah, an Indian, had been agonized with pain in his face for two days and nights, and one night did not sleep at all. On Good Friday, Mr. Capern mesmerised his face: and in *ten minutes* the pain ceased. He remained cured. He said that in his country people are cured in the same manner by a priest, and that the process is called *jarp-phoonk*. The priest, he farther mentioned, does not always employ the hands only, but sometimes holds a feather in each of his hands. A gentleman from India called about this time, and told Mr. Capern that the priest pretends he is obliged to fast, and to pray a great deal to Vishnu, before he knows where to find the bird which furnishes the feather: and, when he does know, that more fastings and prayers are required before the bird will allow him to take two feathers from its tail. He also said that the operator is not always a priest; and, if a layman, is called a Jadrowallah, or conjuror.

"A patient, named Samuel Gibbs, of 13, Gloster Street, who had laboured under chronic rheumatism for two years, lost his pains from one mesmerisation by Mr. Capern, and had no more of them except once when he fell down.

"Another, named Sarah Thompson, who had been tormented with tic douloureux for twenty years, was admitted on the 22nd of October, and considered herself well upon the 5th of November.

"We had a remarkable case of sudden blindness from rigid closure of the eyelids, in a girl named Elizabeth Key, living with her parents in Brompton Place, Hall Park, Paddington. On the night of the 24th of November, at 10 o'clock, in the presence of her father and mother, and being apparently in perfect health, she suddenly felt as it were an electric shock in the left eye, which instantly closed firmly. In five minutes a similar shock was felt in the right eye, and it closed as firmly. Her father procured medical advice, and she took a draught. But her eyes remained closed in spite of medical treatment, and they were in great pain. The next day she was taken to the Infirmary, and Mr. Capern caused them to open freely in three minutes by mesmeric passes. On a few subsequent occasions they closed; but the father was able to open them mesmerically, even by gazing at the lids and willing. The surgeon who was called in, Mr. Hammond, of Paddington, most honourably gave a certificate that 'the cure was an excellent proof of the good effects of mesmerism in nervous affections.'

"Her brother, five years of age, afterwards had a similar seizure. Mesmerism opened his eyes in less than two minutes, and they have closed but once since.

"More formidable affections of the nervous system have been subdued by mesmerism. A man, named Kilder, was admitted June the 3rd, with palsy of the right half of his frame and giddiness. He had been a patient at some of our chief metropolitan hospitals for above four years, and at a provincial hospital for three months: and had a seton in his neck. He, no doubt, was treated in the best manner, but without advantage. He was completely restored by mesmerism, and returned to his business, making his first suit of clothes for Mr. Capern to order on his recovery. He could be rendered universally rigid at any moment.

"A patient, named James Guest, of 16, St. James's Buildings, Clerkenwell, had for seven years been afflicted with intense hypochondriasis, preventing him from following his occupation and rendering him sometimes distracted. He had been under many practitioners, and in medical charities,

without deriving any benefit; though, no doubt, like the last patient, treated as well as the present state of medical knowledge permits. Eight mesmerisations restored him to health and happiness.

"Mary Macarthy, a woman living at No. 9, Robin Hood Court, Tooley Street, had been subject to epileptic fits from September, 1849, when she applied at the Infirmary on the 9th of last July. She was in Guy's Hospital five weeks, without benefit: and then in St. Thomas's four months, and improved sufficiently to leave it; but, soon becoming worse again, she returned, and remained another four months, and again improved, left it, and grew as bad as ever. On coming here, she was at once mesmerised by Mr. Capern, and during the process had a violent fit, which lasted two hours and a half: but from that day the disease abated, and she ceased to attend on the 8th of October, quite free from her disease, and she remains well.

"Before concluding, we may briefly mention two interesting cases, exemplifying the power of mesmerism over diseases of other parts than the nervous system.

"A woman, named Hammond, resident at No. 21, Conduit Street, Westbourne Terrace, who, after a confinement, had suffered for five years such severe symptoms as betokened organic disease and induced some to consider her case cancerous, though it was not, persevered here with mesmerism for a year, and was completely cured: and a patient with an ovarian tumor, now under treatment, has already experienced a great diminution of its bulk, and an equal improvement in her health and strength.

"A parallel circumstance is, that a poor blind child with a large head, who is mesmerised regularly, is, though not improved in his vision, experiencing a great improvement in the appearance of his head. Not expecting his head to diminish, we did not measure it at his admission. But after a time the diminution of the head struck every body, and it was measured. On a second measurement, it was found to have lessened an inch and a quarter in circumference, and an inch over the summit.

"We have received:—

	£	s.	d.
Donations .....	190	4	7½
Annual Subscriptions .....	224	4	0
Rent of some of Mr. Baume's gift ....	10	0	0
Interest on five Exchequer Bills .....	11	0	11
By sale of Crystals .....	2	0	0
Total .....	£437	9	6½

"Our expenses have amounted to £437: 10: 1, being 6½d. over our receipts.\* But we have £884: 3: 9 in hand. We may therefore consider ourselves very prosperous. But we are anxious to extend the benefits of mesmerism. We are anxious to be able to mesmerise a much larger number of patients, and to have an hospital in which patients may reside, as the sick cannot obtain the advantage of mesmerism in the ordinary hospitals.

"Twenty names in the list of donors and subscribers are those of medical men. *We know the utility of ordinary medical treatment: we have the same good opinion of the properties of medicines, the abstraction of blood, counter-irritation, and all well-established medical measures, as the medical world at large: those of us who are medical men practise exactly as the rest of the profession practise: but in our private practice we employ mesmerism IN ADDITION to the means ordinarily used by the medical profession, knowing for a certainty that mesmerism cures diseases not at present cured by ordinary means and assists all the established methods of cure. The general healing power of mesmerism appears to be that of assisting nature to throw off disease, whatever that disease may be—to aid the vis medicatrix naturæ.*

"The lease of the present house will expire at Christmas, and we are desirous of taking such further measures in that respect as may be necessary.

"We beg to express our warmest thanks to the Ladies who so kindly constitute the ladies' committee. They attend in committee weekly: and one or more visit the house every day. Their presence, their suggestions, and general assistance, are invaluable.

"Nor can we conclude without expressing our sense of Mr. Capern's value. His devotion to the blessings of mesmerism—his untiring zeal—his benevolence, modesty, and disinterestedness, are beyond all praise."

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	£	s.	d.
* Salaries .....	239	5	0
Rent (5 quarters).....	106	5	0
Rates and Taxes .....	16	8	11
Printing, Stationery, and Advertisements .....	19	15	0
Sundries .....	13	16	2
Law expenses of securing and letting Mr. Baume's gift .....	24	8	3
Assurance of ditto .....	2	5	0
Carpenter, &c. ....	15	5	9
	<hr/>		
	£437	9	1

Of this the law and carpenter's expenses (37: 14: 0) will not occur again  
The only charge of treating for more patients would be in mesmerisers.

Mr. MONCKTON MILNES, M.P., in moving the adoption of the report, said he regarded mesmerism not in any professional or limited point of view, but as a province of the vast kingdom of nature, demanding the interest of every intelligent man and the appreciation of every student of nature and history. (Cheers.) He had been led long ago to take an interest in this wonderful agent of natural power, because, by an application to its phenomena of the true principles of evidence, he had become convinced that there lay in it a physical truth which it was unwise and unmanly to deny, merely because in this, as in all other sciences, a sagacious induction of facts, hitherto unobserved or misunderstood, must precede any theory. He believed the Mesmeric Infirmary had been wisely established for this very purpose, besides its utility as a therapeutic relief of the sufferings of humanity, and he was also sure it had been prudently conducted. It was no easy matter to form such an institution in the state of public feeling. He was disposed to think there were circumstances connected with mesmerism, that might explain the great difficulty it had to encounter in asserting itself as a science, and establishing itself in a nation so careful of receiving evidence as the English people generally were. The fact of their not being able to lay down a rule defining the physiological and psychological properties of mesmerism had led to mesmerism being incumbered with so much imposture and falsehood. Owing to scientific men refusing from prejudice to receive mesmerism as a science, it had been delivered up as a prey to the impostor, whose exaggerations and delusions had prevented any clear and definite understanding as to the real character of this mysterious agent being arrived at. He was confident the institution would do a vast deal of good, because it was in the hands of as self-sacrificing a body of men as ever stood forward to demand the public sympathy. (Cheers.) He would also call attention to the circumstance, that, whatever might be the present success of this establishment and of the treatment there practised, they had no right to measure by this success the real probability of the success of this agent when it had once a fair chance and took its just place in science. As long as mesmerism was only applied to when every other means had failed, how much might its instances of success and benefit be diminished. He believed it was a great mistake and a dangerous error to use mesmerism for the mere purpose of experiment and amusement, and hoped that so powerful an instrument would only be employed by persons well acquainted with its real effects.

Mr. ALEXANDER J. ELLIS (of Redland, Bristol) said, in

seconding the adoption of the report,—“ Dr. Elliotson, in reading the report, alluded to the fact that it was once imagined mesmerism was dead. Indeed it is a matter of notoriety that a certain well-known coroner thought that he had sat upon its body, and presumed upon having dug a grave for it with an insignificant *Lancet*. But, if mesmerism has died, we cannot help regarding it this day as experiencing a most glorious apotheosis. The growth of the public favour which it experiences is well shewn in our present meeting. Last year we assembled within the walls of the Infirmary; this year our ambition extended to one of the smaller rooms of this establishment, but its bounds were too small, and we now meet in this room, certainly not in sufficient numbers to fill the whole of it, yet next year perhaps even this room will be found too small to contain the numerous supporters of this most benevolent institution. (Applause.) The progress of mesmerism in this country has been extremely indebted to the opposition it has experienced. That opposition has stirred up such a spirit among its supporters, that they have investigated collected evidence, and spared no exertion to disprove the assertions of their opponents, and to establish as a fact the beneficial and remedial agency of mesmerism. It is not opposition—it is indifference, which is killing. (Hear, hear.) I was very much struck, some years ago when I was in Germany, at observing the different light in which mesmerism is regarded in this country and in that. In Germany it is accepted; physicians do not seem to oppose it at all; they recommend it, and it has its regular practitioners: but these practitioners are surprised when they hear what is done in England. The Germans have simply treated the whole subject with indifference—as a remedy to be used like a drug in a chemist’s shop, and thought of perhaps just as little. It is by opposition that we can hope to discover and fortify all our weak points, and to arrive at final success. Failures are more useful than successes. (Applause.) The story goes that there were three persons once commissioned to paint a camel. One of them went, it is said, to the desert to study the animal in its natural sphere of existence: he saw its whole character, and presented a most faithful copy. Another went to a zoological garden, and saw the animal in a state of captivity: he produced certainly a picture like a camel, but wanting the spirit of the first. The third, however, who had a metaphysical turn of mind, locked himself up in his study, and endeavoured to *evolve the idea of a camel from the depths of his inmost consciousness*. (Laughter.) It is needless to say that his picture has not yet appeared. These three persons are



the types of three different investigators. The first is one who looks upon nature determined to accept it as it is,—to put it under no artificial constraint, observing it as much as he can in every possible form in which it presents itself. He is the one to whom we must look for real results. The second is more common: he also studies nature, but he wishes nature to do as he orders it; he must have results answer to his expectation, or he disbelieves them. If a man's leg is cut off, and the other leg doesn't kick, he says the man is an impostor,\*—*not*, that his own theory is wrong, as evidently he ought to have said. But the third class, the *à priori* philosophers, are unfortunately more common than all, and it is from them that mesmerism has experienced, and is in the present day experiencing, the strongest opposition. They are persons who, having from very insufficient induction made up their minds, declare that they do not understand how it is possible such things as we announce could happen, and therefore they disbelieve them. They do not understand how it is that one man should be able to exert power over another. They know very well that a drug does so. 'Ah! yes,' they say, 'I can understand how mercury affects the liver; but I do not understand how, if you just wave your hand before a person's face, you can produce any effect at all. I have waved my hand before many persons' faces, and they have experienced nothing of the kind.' In that way they refuse to examine the evidence which is presented to their minds; but many of those persons are really not worth having the evidence presented to them, for they are not able properly to appreciate it. (Hear, hear.) In society, however, we find so many who entertain similar opinions, that it is necessary to be able to shew them at once that they are not justified in the assertions they make. Now, the first thing they always feel is that so great an effect cannot be produced from so slight a cause. The fact is, as everybody knows who has thought upon the subject, that we have not the slightest idea, with respect to any set of conditions which have not occurred before, what will be the set of consequences which will ensue. The least alteration of certain conditions will entirely alter the result; and in mesmerism, where the conditions are exceedingly complicated, and may be arranged in an almost infinite variety of ways, we must look forward to an almost infinite variety of results, not as being produced by the same causes, but by really different causes. In the course of medicine it is all very well to say, 'We know that mercury does

\* Dr. Marshall Hall, Sir B. Brodie, &c.—*Zoist*.

affect the liver ;' but there is no physician who will say he knows *why* it affects the liver ; he simply knows the fact. As with mercury so it is with all other drugs : we have one unorganized substance acting upon an organized one ; the unorganized substance is comparatively simple, the organized substance is exceedingly complex ; and every physician who has attempted it is perfectly well aware of the great difficulty there is in substantiating the direct action of any one medicine upon the human body. But with mesmerism we have two organized bodies, one acting upon another. The complication of circumstances is double ; hence in the present state of knowledge there is no person who is at all able to say *à priori* what is likely to result from the action of one human being on another. At present, mesmerism is in the stage of observation, and we have not anything like sufficient facts to form a theory. Unfortunately many mesmerists have been exceedingly anxious to erect some grand theory of their own. The injudiciousness of such a course is sufficiently shewn by the report of the French Commissioners, which was directed not against the facts which they saw, and which they admitted to be genuine, but against the existence of a certain mesmeric or magnetic fluid. Now, for years and years that decision of the Commission was supposed to be a decision against mesmerism. Nothing could be more ridiculous, because mesmerism in its present state and in its then state was not a theory, but a collection of facts out of which a theory might perhaps be built. - Again, some of the facts which are recorded in mesmerism strike persons as being impossible because they are contrary to their notions. We say of clairvoyants, that they 'see' things, that they read with their eyes shut, and 'see' through a wall. Now we know by the construction of the eye that if the eyelid closes we cannot see. This contradiction arises from an unfortunate use of a word. That clairvoyants have an *apprehension* of things beyond them, answering, to a certain extent, to our sight, even when their eyes are closed, is true ; but the apprehension which they have is *not sight*, for it differs altogether from the laws of sight. They see from very different parts of the body and in different directions from what they do in sight. Hence the word 'seeing' is an unfortunate one, and I would suggest, from the word 'clairvoyant' that we use the verb 'to clear view,' instead of 'to see,' on such occasions. We are surprised at what is unusual ; we are not surprised at what happens every day. People are not astonished at sight, but at clairvoyance ; but if they had seen, however, as I have, persons going about day after day with their eyes closed, and

acting precisely in the same way as if they were opened, moving things out of their way, and never missing anything they wished to take up, their surprise would cease, and they would find it such an ordinary phenomenon that they would be much more astonished at witnessing failure than at observing success. It is very necessary to bear in mind that mesmerism is only wonderful because it is uncommon, and the object of such an institution as this is to do away with that wonder by making it common to all classes of society. It is not to be supposed for an instant that the benefits of mesmerism are confined to the walls of the Mesmeric Infirmary. There are hundreds and hundreds of persons who are perpetually practising it, and to whom it is as much a matter of course, if they feel pain in any part of the body, to ask a person to make a few passes over it, as it would be to ask for plaster if they had cut their fingers. (Hear, hear.) That class of persons is increasing very greatly. It is not to be wondered at that persons who do not bestow their attention generally upon scientific subjects, arrive at such false conclusion as those we have mentioned; but when we see persons whose business it is to instruct others—who have had the education of the highest class in exactly that description of cases in which mesmerism is effective—who have studied the anatomy and physiology of the human body; when we see them blindly refusing to take cognizance of mesmeric cases; when we see those who sit in wisdom's chair bringing the passions to rebel against her; when we see them heaping abuse in order to excite angry feelings against a matter of science; when we see them trying all means in their power to run down those benevolent men of their own class who have ventured to stand out as advocates of these new and therefore despised truths,—then indeed we are tempted to cry out, 'Shame against those professors! shame against them! But may they live to repent, and to advocate that which they now so unworthily refuse to study!'" (Applause.)

Mr. Ellis then referred to the trials which awaited mesmerists themselves in the results of their own investigations; and, after alluding to the fears formerly entertained by phrenologists of the *obloquy* attached to mesmerism, so that the Phrenological Association at first dreaded to admit the mesmeric proofs of phrenology, and to homœopathy, continued:

"It is necessary for the investigation of mesmerism that facts should be brought forward and should be open to public investigation. In the majority of cases which occur in private families it is quite impossible for investigators to have access to them for the purposes of study. The Mesmeric

Infirmary is open to the world. We should not have advanced in the medical profession but for those large hospitals where numberless cases are brought forward in which we are able to see the actions of medicines upon different constitutions, and under very different circumstances. Nor shall we advance in mesmerism until we are able to collect a body of facts which will lead us finally to a theory. The facts already collected are sufficient to prove the truth of mesmerism. It is no slight satisfaction to ourselves as investigators that we stand in such a very different position to that of the investigators of other sciences. When Galileo first observed the satellites of Jupiter, he could have had no idea of the beneficent result which would be produced in the saving of lives by finding out the longitude. When Galvani observed the quivering of a frog's leg, and Oersted first observed the deflection of the magnetic needle, they had no idea of such a result as the electric telegraph. When a person by way of a conjuring trick first dangled a ring from his finger, he had no idea that he had got the clue to an instrument by which perhaps the human mind might be gauged. But here we have a very different case. Here every experiment we make produces the most beneficent and excellent result. Here the soothing hand, the speaking eye, the benevolent will, act at once to soothe, to reinvigorate, to revive. We cannot stir a step without doing good to our fellow-countrymen; we cannot pursue an apparently abstract science without practically benefitting humanity. For this purpose the Infirmary should be supported to the utmost extent. The idea mentioned in the report of enlarging it, so as to receive more patients, including perhaps in-patients, is one which, I think, all our subscribers must earnestly lay to heart; and they will, I hope, endeavour, by the true, unmistakeable gauge of a money support, to shew the real interest which they take in this excellent institution."

The motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN observed that Mr. M. Milnes (who had just left the room) had said a good deal about the imposition which was practised by means of mesmerism. Now, he denied that imposition was possible in purely medical cases, for they were to be judged by medical men. He supposed the Hon. Gentleman must have alluded to those psychological phenomena on which he had abstained from saying anything; for they were not, never were, and never would be, the object of inquiry by that institution; but, at the same time, he did not wish to be understood as throwing any doubt on the reality of those phenomena.

Mr. LUXMOORE rose with great pleasure to propose as an addition to the list of vice-presidents a gentleman whose scientific attainments were only equalled by his moral worth. When he mentioned the name of Professor De Morgan, he was quite sure he would have the acquiescence of all present. He would at that late hour detain the meeting only for a single remark. It had been said that all cases treated mesmerically should be under the guidance of an experienced medical practitioner; and in this, as far as severe and dangerous complaints were concerned, he fully agreed: but although the investigation of mesmerism and its varied phenomena might and did require the most active energies of the best developed brain, still great relief from suffering might be afforded by the most humble peasant to his afflicted neighbour. If in all cases we had waited for medical superintendence, many is the sufferer who would have been deprived of relief. In witness of which he would call their attention to the cases of Mr. Capern, their excellent secretary, as recorded by him in a small volume published some months since, who had often met the lame, maimed, halt, and blind, taken them to the nearest dwelling, and at once reduced the amount of their sufferings and ultimately effected a cure. He now begged to move that Professor De Morgan, of University College, be elected a vice-president of the Mesmeric Infirmary.

Mr. ASHURST MAJENDIE had much pleasure in seconding the nomination proposed. He thought it of great importance to their cause, that a professor of the exact sciences of such high eminence as Mr. De Morgan should be willing to accept office in their institution. They already possessed among their members many physicians of reputation who were devoted to the cause of mesmerism. He should not, he believed, appear to make an invidious distinction, if he expressed more especial admiration for one of them who had risked in the cause of truth everything dear to man—his reputation and his fortune. It was a lamentable fact, that while many of the leading persons in the medical world were anxious in cases of difficulty to consult Dr. Elliotson, from their high estimate of his talent, knowledge, and experience, yet when the subject of mesmerism was under consideration, treated him as one who was carried away by his imagination, and distrusted his judgment. Yet Dr. Elliotson, from the result of observation, was as firmly persuaded of the curative operation of mesmerism as of any other medical appliances. He had hopes that some of those eminent members of the medical profession, who in the pride of science had hitherto refused to read that page of the great book of nature which

mesmerism laid before them, might be hereafter induced to change their conduct, when they learnt the election of that day. They might now be informed, that such a person as Professor De Morgan, a gentleman the bent of whose mind has been directed to the most rigid laws of evidence in abstract science, has been convinced of the truths of mesmerism, and is willing to take an active part in its promulgation. Although mesmerism may not yet have attained the dignity of science, yet the constant recurrence of facts is tending to the establishment of laws; and under the auspices of the enlightened patrons of our institution, it is to be hoped that the accumulation of evidence may shortly be so complete as to secure a general conviction of the truth and value of mesmerism.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. H. U. JANSON (of Exeter) said he appeared at that meeting in precisely the same circumstances as at the last, having come, on both occasions, with the intention of giving an account of the great success of the mesmeric cause in Exeter, under the direction of Mr. Parker; but he was happy to state that in both cases he had been forestalled by the presence of that gentleman himself; from whom the audience would hear any such detail with much greater interest. He should therefore merely state that the successful practice of mesmerism in Exeter had indeed been most encouraging. Not only had numerous and surprising cures been effected by its means, after all others had failed, but also a great amount of human suffering had been prevented in the way of *painless operations*: and among them he had the satisfaction of stating that more than fifty teeth had thus been extracted by Mr. Parker, several of which operations he himself had witnessed; and he could assure the audience that those who had *experienced* what it was to have a large, firm, and deeply-rooted grinder *wrenched* out in the *usual* manner, would fully agree with him that it was a great blessing to have the operation performed without either feeling or recollecting anything of it! (Cheers and laughter.) It appeared to him that he could not do better, under present circumstances, than strongly to urge all his hearers not to be content with merely hearing or reading about mesmeric cures, &c., but to make zealous endeavours to work it, *practically*, themselves. He was desirous of disabusing the public mind of a very erroneous, but very prevalent, impression, that the *sanative power*, known by the name of "mesmerism," is a very rare gift, and bestowed only on very few individuals. On the contrary, there was reason to believe that it is in the

power of any individual, with ordinary health and strength, to effect a considerable amount of benefit; and if people would only lay aside their diffidence, and fearlessly make a resolute and *persevering* attempt, they would probably have reason to be greatly surprised at the amount of their own achievements. It would not become him to enlarge upon the success of his own exertions, otherwise he could expatiate, at great length, upon the numerous aches and pains that he had relieved and cured. He would therefore merely repeat his injunction, that the audience would take courage and try their own powers: and if so, he doubted not that they would soon have cause to rejoice that they had acted upon his advice. At the same time, he recommended them, if possible, to operate under the *supervision* of a regular medical practitioner who was favourable to the mesmeric cause. Such individuals, he had much pleasure in stating, are not now so rare as they were some years ago; and if we had in every town throughout Britain a single surgeon who did his *duty* as Mr. Parker of Exeter does, the mesmeric contest would be very speedily and most completely decided. Mr. J. concluded by moving that Dr. Ashburner and Captain Topham, who retire from the committee by rotation, be re-elected: and that Colonel Bagnold and Mr. Wilberforce be elected on the committee in the room of Mr. S. Chandler and Mr. Robertson, who are unable to attend.

Mr. J. B. PARKER (of Exeter) had much pleasure in seconding Mr. Janson's resolutions, and would trespass but a few moments on such a large and respectable audience. He must however say that mesmerism had only shared the obloquy common to all other discoveries. As the history of man for nearly 6000 years had been written in blood, science had but little chance, as we all well knew that war had been an obstacle to all social, moral, and intellectual improvement. But now a new era had dawned upon us; now we were enjoying the blessings of peace. Its fruits we had just seen in a neighbouring country, where the venerable Arago had valued more the friendship of a Humboldt, a Brewster, and a Faraday, than he dreaded the chains of a tyrant. And had we not a noble example among us, whose zeal in the cause of truth had laid the foundation of this institution, in spite of the sneers and ridicule of the unthinking, money-seeking multitude? He need scarcely tell the meeting he alluded to Dr. Elliotson, for whose brow a diadem was wrought, more precious than the mineral productions of the earth, whose lustre would not be tarnished by time or space, and on whose glory the sun would never set. The blessings

of mesmerism could not be too widely spread. Dr. Marshall Hall had been lecturing before the College of Physicians on epilepsy, which he well considered the direst malady which afflicted the human race, and he was compelled to admit that he knew no remedy for it. Would he not do well to study honestly the curative powers of mesmerism for this dreadful curse? He (Mr. Parker) had witnessed the entire cure of a patient who had suffered frightfully from this malady for upwards of fourteen years. Mesmerism had entirely restored her to health, thanks to the benevolent coöperation of his friend, Mr. Luxmoore; and he would now beg the audience to ponder on this fact, and would only ask if such a blessing could be too extensively known?

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Rev. GEORGE SANDBY, on proposing the next resolution, said he congratulated the friends of mesmerism upon the success of their meeting; he congratulated them upon the triumphant position which they had that day attained. They had made a great stride; they stood that morning upon a high vantage ground, from which their adversaries would not be able to drive them back. It was delightful to perceive the change in public opinion on the subject of mesmerism, which was so plainly indicated by the large and crowded assembly which was there gathered together to learn the progress of their institution. That institution was thriving; and from the report which they had heard read that morning, they had every reason to persevere, and to thank God, and take courage. They had reason to rejoice that the merciful gift of a bounteous Creator was every day becoming more prized, more appreciated, and more employed. But they must not be content with what they had done: they must push onward: they must hope to see mesmerism introduced into every hospital in the kingdom: they must hope to see an "Elliotson Ward" in every hospital: they must hope to see every institution throughout the land recognizing the services of their admirable and enlightened friend: and this he did not despair of witnessing, especially after such an attendance as that which was before them on that occasion. The reverend gentleman then proceeded to pass a high eulogium upon the services of the ladies' committee: and having described the kind and unwearied exertions with which they devoted themselves to the prosperity of the Infirmary, concluded with moving, that the cordial thanks of this meeting be offered to the ladies' committee for their valuable services, and that Mrs. De Morgan, Mrs. Symes, Mrs. Wm. Herring, Miss Brine, Miss Emma Brine, Miss Wallace, and Miss



Swanneck, at present constituting the committee, be requested to continue for another year.

Mr. C. UNDERWOOD said he had much pleasure in seconding the resolution, but would not detain the meeting at that late hour by any lengthened remarks. He believed that a large proportion of the supporters of the Infirmary had become so from having, either in their own persons or among their relatives and friends (as indeed was exemplified in the report which had been read) experienced the beneficial effects resulting from mesmerism. He had become a convert to mesmerism from having witnessed in the case of his own sister mesmeric phenomena produced under circumstances of striking and peculiar interest, and he had himself experienced its blessings in seeing her relieved through its operation from the most intense sufferings. He concluded by seconding the resolution.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

Mr. JOHN AMOR moved, and Professor M'DONALD seconded the motion, that the committee be empowered to make arrangements for taking another house for the purposes of the institution, or for renewing their interest in the present house, as they shall consider it expedient. This also was agreed to.

Dr. ASHBURNER moved that the cordial thanks of the meeting be given to Earl Stanhope for his kindness in taking the chair.

The following note was to have been read at the meeting :

“ 25th May, 1852.

“ My dear Dr. Elliotson,—I regret extremely that, as I leave town to-morrow morning for the continent, I cannot have the pleasure of attending the Annual Meeting of the Subscribers to the Mesmeric Infirmary.

“ Had I remained in town, I should most certainly have attended the meeting, in order to testify to my firm conviction that mesmerism is the most important subject, in its practical bearings on all forms of human suffering, and in the prospects it affords of advancement in psychological science, which can occupy the attention of intelligent persons; and also for the purpose of emphatically declaring the deep sense I entertain of the debt of gratitude which the cultivators of mesmerism owe to you for the noble and effectual manner in which you have defended the sacred cause of truth against the attacks of self-sufficient ignorance and malignant prejudice.

“ I would gladly have expressed also the conviction which I feel sure that every one who knows anything of the state of public opinion and who can read the signs of the times will share with me, that the day is not far distant when the universal admission of mes-

meric truth, and the constant use of mesmerism as a curative agent, will recompense you a hundredfold for the sacrifices you have made to the cause of truth, benevolence, and human progress.

"I beg you will make my apology to the meeting for my unavoidable absence on this interesting occasion, and believe me,

"Yours most truly,

"WILLIAM GREGORY."

The patient with uterine disease, whose case is mentioned at p. 205, was at the meeting in perfect health, and could hardly be restrained from addressing the company.

#### NOTE BY THE ZOIST.

"Mr. Wakley says he is resolved that Mesmerism shall no longer be employed in this or any other hospital."—*Speech of Mr. Wakley's Clerk to Dr. Elliotson in the ward of University College Hospital, where he was allowed as a favour to see Elizabeth Okey, November, 1838.*

Resolved—"That the Hospital Committee be instructed to take such steps as they shall deem most advisable, to prevent the practice of Mesmerism or Animal Magnetism in future within the Hospital."—*Resolution of the Council of University College, December 27, 1838.*

#### XV. Mesmeric Dispensary in Dublin.

"Nevertheless, there is comfort. The world is round, saith the proverb, and all things come to an end. *Pass a few short months and the delusion stands exposed; the actors are declared to be deceivers or deceived; the facts so lately boasted of are trampled upon with contempt, and the doctrines built upon them are laughed to scorn.* The fashionable crowd flock to a new *prima donna* or to a watering-place doctor; and the half-converted physicians and surgeons never mention the subject more; for, although the folly will rise again, it will scarcely be in their time."—*Drs. Forbes and Conolly, British and Foreign Medical Review, April, 1839.*

LEARNING in a recent letter from the Archbishop of Dublin that a Mesmeric Infirmary had been established in Dublin, I requested His Grace to give me some further information respecting it, and received the following letter.—J. ELLIOTSON.

"Merton, Cullenswood, Dublin,

"June 10, 1852.

"Dear Sir,—His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin has just informed me that you were anxious to hear something about the Mesmeric Infirmary I have got up in Dublin. I therefore now enclose you one of our prospectuses. We are working, I am happy to say, very well: we have *two* paid operators—a male and female; both appear to have a fair share of power. I am indeed thankful to God to be able to say that I have been most successful in using mesmerism

as a curative power, and have had some *remarkable* cases, which the Archbishop of Dublin can bear testimony to. I have now two cases of cancer of the breast, which are making *extraordinary progress*: one the Archbishop's housekeeper. I find that sleep is *quite unnecessary*. In *every case* I have had that really is worth recording, I have not put them into a *deep sleep*—I mean, an *unconscious state*. May I ask, is this your experience and opinion? I shall feel truly grateful for any suggestions you may give me. I have more cases than I can possibly manage. Though I mesmerise nine or ten every day, I do not feel any ill results to myself. I *never experiment*: I use the power *solely* as a curative agent, and, thank God, have been most successful. With earnest prayer that the Lord may enable us to use the valuable gift, and not abuse it,

"Believe me, dear Sir, yours very truly,

"FALCONER MILES.

"Dr. Elliotson, 37, Conduit Street."

"*The Dublin Mesmeric Association, having for its object 'The establishment of the principles of Mesmerism, and their practical application to the removal of Pain and Disease.'*—Yearly Subscription, Ten Shillings.

"President—FALCONER MILES, Esq., Merton, Cullenswood.

Treasurer—JOHN GRAY, Esq., Windsor Terrace, Kingstown.

"The Committee of the Dublin Mesmeric Association, in appealing to their fellow-citizens in behalf of a Mesmeric Hospital, feel themselves called on to explain the character and objects of the Association, and to remove some misconceptions which prevail, or might be likely to arise, on the subject. They wish it to be distinctly understood, that their object is not to maintain or to devise any scientific *theory*, but simply to extend the knowledge of certain important *facts*, and to facilitate the beneficial application of that knowledge, in the relief of suffering, and the cure of disease. With this view, they propose, not to occupy themselves with a variety of experiments for the gratification of mere *speculative curiosity*, but to seek exclusively for *practically useful* results.

"Without intending to disparage scientific investigation, or to pronounce for, or against, any particular theory, they propose to confine their attention to what is practical, and practically useful. But they would, at the same time, remind those who are eager after philosophical speculations, that in all departments of knowledge, the ascertainment of facts has always come first in order, and that correct theories to account for existing phenomena, have always (when such have been attained) appeared long after, and have been based on those facts. The reversed procedure—that of seeking in the first instance for a theory, and disregarding, or misrepresenting, all facts that cannot be satisfactorily *explained* on such theory—this is precisely that '*ANTICIPATION OF NATURE*,' which Bacon protested against as the bane of true philosophy, and which it was the great object of his life to supersede, by the '*INTERROGATION* of nature.'

"The Committee beg also to be understood, most clearly and candidly, that they do not seek to produce Mesmerism before the public, as an agent capable of curing all diseases, or by any means wish it to usurp the place of the medical man; but simply put it forward as an individual remedy, capable of controlling and exercising a powerful and beneficial influence over a vast number of ailments; and more especially those called nervous and chronic affections, which medical men at all times have acknowledged as little benefitted by the mere administration of drugs.

"The mesmeric sleep, which usually exhausts itself in a few hours, can, if needed, and on certain conditions, be prolonged for days and even weeks. By this prolonged sleep and other means, as Phreno-Mesmerism, &c., Dr. Kean's successful treatment, and perfect cure of sixty-four cases of insanity was effected; indeed, by this sleep, an endless catalogue of varied ills have been cured, from the needless tremor of the delicate girl, to the wild yell of the raging maniac.

"The Committee, fully aware that Mesmerism is as yet but in its infancy, requiring a much more extended field for the observation of its phenomena, than has been hitherto allowed it, and as calling for an increased amount of experiment, to furnish additional facts towards its development, before it can be enrolled in the list of sciences; put it forward simply as an accumulation of facts, valuable in a *curative* point of view, as affording a new therapeutic agent, wonderful in its influence over health and disease, while it is more harmless, and more manageable than most drugs. And, therefore, the Committee do not in any way pledge themselves, as the supporters of this hospital, to any theory or explanation, however seemingly correct or scientific, as to the phenomena or operative agency of Mesmerism, intending to deal with it practically only, and rather preferring that medical men should carry out and interest themselves in its more scientific and elaborate details and principles.

"The Committee feel it of vital importance to their own character, to the people, and to the cause of Mesmerism itself, to disclaim any connection or co-operation with those who receive or practise mesmerism, as derived from supernatural agency or miracle-working power, independent of the laws of creation; but, on the contrary, would more humbly and gratefully acknowledge it as an additional means granted by the Almighty to man, to make him more dependent on Him, and more useful to his fellow-man; and believe its phenomena to be solely the result of the vital force, conveyed by the operator to the more delicate and susceptible nervous organization of the person mesmerised; just as light, or heat, or sound, &c., variously affect the animal or organic tissues they come in contact with.

"Lastly, the Committee would suggest to the public, and in particular to the medical men of this city, that, when the existence of a real and important agent has been established by facts, which it is vain to attempt denying, and when great and increasing public attention has been drawn to these facts, it is most important to the

well-being of society, that such an agent should not be left exclusively in the hands of the ignorant and thoughtless, or of designing and ill-disposed persons; but that means should be taken for affording all candid persons an opportunity of fair investigation; so that truth may be distinguished from falsehood, and a beneficial from a noxious or dangerous application of the powers which Providence has placed within our reach.

"The Committee meet every Monday evening, at 13, Anglesca Street, at eight o'clock, for the transaction of business, and the furtherance of the objects of the Association. Subscriptions and Donations will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, J. Gray, Esq., or any member of the Committee.

"By Order,

"I. MAC DONNELL, *Hon. Secretary.*

"The Infirmary is open daily for the attendance of patients at 13, Anglesca Street."

XVI. *More Clairvoyance in Alexis Didier.* By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

It was only in the last Number but one (January, 1852) that I gave some conclusive and remarkable recent proofs of the clairvoyance of Alexis Didier, with references to many other examples of his powers recorded in former Numbers. I understand that the following also may be relied upon, and have therefore translated and forwarded them.

"A few days ago, a money-changer in the neighbourhood of the Place Vendome, after he had exchanged a considerable sum for a person of fashionable manners, and the latter had left the office, perceived that he had overpaid 400 francs. Not admiring this, he began to consider how he should discover his customer, and noticed on the counter the piece of paper in which the money brought to him had been wrapped, and on it part of a seal which appeared to be that of a foreigner. He went to all the embassies; but in vain.

"His wife also racked her brains: and, as she had frequently consulted Alexis with advantage, she went to M. Marcillet with the piece of the wrapper. Alexis was thrown into somnambulism: and, after applying the paper first to his forehead and then to the pit of the stomach, spoke as follows.

"'This piece of paper puts me in communication with a tall man, who has large moustaches—is a Russian—aide de camp to the Emperor. Stop, I perceive his residence at Paris: if you go to the *Place of the Madeleine*, behind the church, on the left, you will see it.' 'I know enough,' replied the lady, and departed.

"On returning home, she found her husband counting money with a man employed at the Russian Embassy. She told them what Alexis had said: and they laughed heartily and joked her on her credulity. However, the man knowing the addresses of many of the Russians in Paris, offered his assistance in tracing out the gentleman.

"When they reached the Russian Embassy, they learnt that an aide de camp of the Emperor—the Count B——, was in Paris, and living at No. 35, *Rue de la Madeleine*. They went there and observed that the house was exactly opposite the *Rue Chateau-Lagarde*, which opens upon the *Place de la Madeleine*. They now began to think more seriously of what Alexis had said.

"The money-changer went up the stairs. But, oh what a deception! he did not recognize the gentleman whom he saw as the person for whom he was so anxiously looking, when Count B—— said to him, 'But I know you: you are the money-changer that I was with this morning.' Then, going up close to the money-changer and smiling, he took off his head an enormous chamber wig, such as many Russians wear.

"The money-changer was petrified on finding himself face to face with his debtor. The matter was soon explained; and, as the noble foreigner had not yet touched the money, they counted it over together. There were actually 400 francs too much, and these were immediately returned to the money-changer."—*La Patrie*, March 21, 1852.

"Madame V., living at No. 62, *Rue Neuve, St. Augustin*, went last Wednesday in great distress to M. Marcillet, begging for an immediate consultation with Alexis. As soon as she was put in communication with Alexis, she asked, 'Do you know what brought me here?' 'Yes, Madame; you want to know if I can find 3,180 francs for you which you have lost.'

"Alexis then gave an incredible detail of the items of this sum, saying that there were three bank notes of 1000 francs each; 100 English sovereigns, each worth 25 francs; and 30 francs in five-franc pieces and small money. Madame de V. astonished at such lucidity, begged to know who was the thief. 'Certainly,' said he: 'it is the maid-servant whom you discharged last Monday. I see her: she has broad shoulders, is short, and rather lame.' 'Go on, Alexis: that is the exact description of my former servant!' 'To find her,' continued Alexis, 'you must go to the *Barrière de Monceaux*; she is staying with one of her acquaintances in the street which ascends—stop, it is the *rue*—the *rue du*

*Rocher.* I see a young man with her who seems to know something about the matter. Go to this place, and you will find the woman, and the money—short, however, about 300 francs, which she has spent.'

"Madame de V. went home a moment to prepare for the search: and, on descending the stairs, she saw her old servant in the porter's lodge. She went up to her on the pretence of making some enquiry, took her up stairs, and locked her up in the bed-room. Then, going to a police-magistrate, she related to him the singular revelations of Alexis. The magistrate, like an enlightened man, listened attentively, took her deposition in the kindest manner, strange as it might appear, and offered his assistance to visit the quarter and the street, which she pointed out, when an unexpected circumstance happened that facilitated the investigation. The porter who had carried the portmanteau of the servant, hearing what was passing, said that he had taken it to No. 11, *Rue du Rocher*. The magistrate sent the servant to this address: and Madame de V. went there herself. A careful investigation was made, which led to nothing. The servant then grew bolder, and threatened her late mistress with an action for defamation.

"In the meantime, the magistrate, continuing the investigation calmly in the midst of the servant's vociferations, noticed a little box, locked, which he ordered to be opened. The servant became agitated at the sight of it, but declared that it did not belong to her. The landlady said the same. A smith was sent for, who put an end to this strange scene by opening the box, in which was found the exact sum stolen, short 300 francs, as Alexis had declared: but the expenditure of this sum was ascertained by the purchase of various articles of dress, accompanied by their accusing bills.

"The rest may be guessed. In the midst of so many overwhelming facts, the dishonest servant hung down her head, and was sent to the lock-up house of the police."—*Le Siècle*, June 14, 1852.

\* \* Dr. Forbes, beginning by saying that Mr. Wakley had proved all the experiments with the Okeys to be delusions and the demonstrations degrading scenes and had caused a complete and melancholy explosion of them, and that all English practitioners were ashamed of the name of mesmerism,—proceeded to denounce Alexis as an impostor, and so charmed Mr. Wakley that the coroner told the world in his *Lancet* that Dr. Forbes had published a complete exposure of M. Marcillet and Alexis, and that Dr. Forbes's report of two of their exhibitions had caused these foreigners to leave England.

The whole of Dr. Forbes's very sad conduct in regard to Alexis

will be found in *Zoist*, No. VIII. (others of his doings are in Nos. VII., IX., X., XII., XIII., XVI.) We trust these articles will be consulted by those who write short sketches of Dr. Forbes after his death as a member of different societies, according to common custom; for by the deeds recorded in those numbers will be only be known. He is pilloried there as a dry specimen and example for all time.—*Zoist*.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

Case of Paralysis and Mania, cured by means of Animal Magnetism, in a letter to Professor Gregory, from C. M. Friedlander, M.D., Clapham, Surrey. Edinburgh, 1852.

The readiest way of making this interesting cure known would have been to publish it in *The Zoist*, instead of making it a separate pamphlet and sending it to Edinburgh. It occurred actually in London and would have occupied a sheet only, which we should cheerfully have devoted to it. The mesmeriser was M. Rousselot, the eminent performer upon the violoncello.

Letters on Mesmerism and Clairvoyance. By William Gregory, M.D., Professor of Chemistry. Reprinted from the *Edinburgh News* newspaper. Edinburgh, 1852.

These contain an abundance of striking and satisfactory facts which Dr. Gregory himself witnessed, and he did well to imitate Dr. Esdaile's plan in India and publish them first in the newspapers, thus securing the attention of the world at large in total disregard of the medical press.

A Theory of Population deduced from the general law of animal fertility. By Herbert Spencer, author of *Social Statics*. Reprinted from the *Westminster Review* for April, 1852.

This demands the perusal of all. It contains profound physiological and social views. The author urges that, the greater the development, energy, and activity of the nervous system become, the more do those of the generative system lessen: consequently that, the more man advances in civilization, the less will population increase.

"Evidently, so long as the fertility of the race is more than sufficient to balance the diminution by deaths, population must continue to increase: so long as population continues to increase, there must be pressure on the means of subsistence: and so long as there is pressure on the means of subsistence, further mental development must go on, and further diminution of fertility must result. Hence, the change can never cease until the rate of multiplication is just equal to the rate of mortality; that is—can never cease until, on the average, each pair brings to maturity but two children. Probably this involves that each pair will rarely produce more than two offspring; seeing that with the greatly-increased ability to preserve life, which the hypothesis presupposes, the amount of infant and juvenile mortality must become very small. Be this as it may, however, it is manifest that, in the end, pressure of population and its accompanying evils will entirely disappear; and will leave a state of things which will require from each individual no more than a normal and pleasurable activity. That this last inference is a legitimate corollary will become obvious on a little consideration. For, a cessation in the decrease of fertility implies a cessation in the development of the nervous system; and this implies that the nervous system has become fully equal to all that is demanded of it—has not to do more than is natural to it. But that exercise of faculties which does not exceed what is natural constitutes gratification. Consequently, in the end, the obtainment of subsistence will require just that kind and that amount of action needful to perfect health and happiness.



"Thus do we see how simple are the means by which the greatest and most complex results are worked out. From the point of view now reached, it becomes plain that the necessary antagonism of individuation and reproduction not only fulfils with precision the *a priori* law of maintenance of race, from the monad up to man, but ensures the final attainment of the highest form of this maintenance—a form in which the amount of life shall be the greatest possible, and the births and deaths the fewest possible. In the nature of things, the antagonism could not fail to work out the results we see it working out. The gradual diminution and ultimate disappearance of the original excess of fertility could take place only through the process of civilization; and, at the same time, the excess of fertility has itself rendered the process of civilization inevitable. From the beginning, pressure of population has been the proximate cause of progress. It produced the original diffusion of the race. It compelled men to abandon predatory habits and take to agriculture. It led to the clearing of the earth's surface. It forced men into the social state; made social organization inevitable; and has developed the social sentiments. It has stimulated to progressive improvements in production, and to increased skill and intelligence. It is daily pressing us into closer contact and more mutually-dependent relationships. And after having caused, as it ultimately must, the due peopling of the globe, and the bringing of all its habitable parts into the highest state of culture—after having brought all processes for the satisfaction of human wants to the greatest perfection—after having, at the same time, developed the intellect into complete competency for its work, *raised* the feelings into complete fitness for social life—after having done all this, we see that the pressure of population, as it gradually finishes its work, must gradually bring itself to an end."

Papers by Mr. Herbert Spencer will be found in *Zeist*, No. IV., Imitation and Benevolence; VI., Situation of organ of Amativeness; VII., a Theory concerning the organ of Wonder.

The Magnetoscope. A Philosophical Essay on the Magnetoid characteristics of Elementary Principles, and their relations to the Organization of Man. By T. Leger, Doctor of the Medical Faculty of Paris; late Professor of Anatomy at the Practical School; Fellow of the Society of Sciences and Arts of the Department of the Marne; late Professor of the Medical College of Mexico, &c., &c. London: Baillière, 219, Regent Street. 1852.

We have not been able to repeat Dr. Leger's experiments any more than those of Mr. Rutter: but great numbers of the most distinguished men go to witness them.

The Introduction of Mesmerism as an anæsthetic and curative agent into the Hospitals of India. By James Esdaile, M.D., late Presidency Surgeon, Calcutta, author of *Mesmerism in India*. Dedicated to the Medical Profession. Perth, 1852.

A shilling will be well spent upon this pamphlet.

Natural and Mesmeric Clairvoyance, with the practical application of Mesmerism in Surgery and Medicine. By James Esdaile, M.D., &c. Baillière, London. 1852.

Every person should read this little book, full of wonderful truths and exquisitely interesting in many respects. Every friend of mesmerism should purchase a copy, and lend to those of his acquaintances who are still uninformed. It is the finishing stroke to all antimesmerists. It gives a view of all Dr. Esdaile's gigantic surgical doings in India and of his medical experience of its power, and exhibits the ordinary phenomena of mesmerism in very strong points of view: it gives the proofs of clairvoyance which he observed in India, and details the opposition he met with and the miserable littleness of his medical opponents, each the analogue of a medical man in Great Britain. He met with a Wakley, a Buchanan, an Alfred Taylor, University College medical professors, &c.; and, after beating them all, he has exposed them in the most facetious, charming manner. The book, to say nothing of its solid, scientific information, is as amusing as any work

of fiction. He does not spare those delightful persons, Messrs. Wakley and Bushnan, the latter at present employed by Mr. Churchill, we lament to say, as editor of his *Medical Times*. The work is gracefully and in manly language dedicated to Lord Dalhousie: not for favours to come, for Dr. Esdaile has left India for good and retired from the profession; nor because Lord Dalhousie is a Lord; but because of the Governor-General's natural nobility,—of his carefully examining into the truth of mesmerism, and, when satisfied, of openly declaring that of Dr. Esdaile's facts "there could be no doubt whatever,"—of his giving Dr. Esdaile an hospital for the application of mesmerism,—and then spontaneously making Dr. Esdaile Presidency Surgeon, and saying to him, "You have nothing to thank me for, Dr. Esdaile; you have only to thank yourself; I have only done an act of justice." Dr. Esdaile is evidently a remarkable man; remarkable for intelligence, integrity, independence, courage, energy, and unworldliness. He was just fitted for the mighty work to be done in the East, and he did it gloriously, and has gained himself an imperishable name in the annals of his profession and humanity.

We have given an extensive view of Dr. Esdaile's labours in India. No fewer than seventeen of our numbers teem with them, from No. XI. to XXXIV: and they occupy 356 of our pages.—The *Jury Magnétique* of Paris has just awarded him their silver medal.

Mesmeric Phenomena; their reality and importance, attested by Dr. Maitland, The Edinburgh Review, and others. Baillière, London.

We recommend this pamphlet again as an antidote to Dr. Maitland's pamphlet, which has done much harm in some quarters to the sacred cause of mesmerism.

#### NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Mr. Janson.*—We offer our best thanks to this gentleman for advertising *The Zist* at his own cost in the *Western Luminary*, the *Devonshire Chronicle*, *Woolmer's Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*, the *Western Times* (twice), and *Freeman's Exeter Flying Post*.

*Mr. Mansfield.*—We have received a letter from Mr. Mansfield referring to a remark made by Dr. Elliotson at p. 420 of our Ninth Volume, viz., that the discovery that the organs of the brain could be excited by mesmerism was made by Mr. Mansfield "quite accidentally." Mr. Mansfield says: "The circumstances under which the fact was presented to me were as follows. In the autumn of 1841 I met, for the first time, with an opportunity, long desired, of prosecuting an experimental enquiry into the effects of the magnetic processes on the human system: and I was then for some time engaged in observing the results manifested during the trance by some persons operated on by a gentleman, then very ardent in the pursuit of this branch of physiology. On the 7th of October in that year one of these persons, a young lady, was put into the trance; the magnetizer was playing an accordion. She, being apparently unable to hear any sounds but such as proceeded from her magnetizer, or from things in contact with him, was listening to the music with evident satisfaction. I was watching her. Suddenly the musician produced purposely a fearful discord, upon which her countenance assumed an expression of great pain. I immediately suspected that, in her peculiar state of consciousness, she would not improbably be sensible of annoyance in some particular part of the brain, if any such were specially cognizant of the musical relations of sound. I requested the performer to repeat this experiment; he did so. Again the same indications of suffering followed the discordant note. I now requested him to enquire of her where she felt pain; she immediately placed a finger of her left hand on that part of the left side of her forehead on which cranialogists mark the position of the underlying organ of "Sense of Melody." At my request, her position, which happened to be such as to confine the right arm, was changed, and the experiment repeated. She now, on being asked where she felt the pain which she again expressed, placed a

finger of her right hand on the corresponding point of the right side of her head. She was then asked if she felt any pain in her ears; she answered that she did not. I knew that this lady was ignorant of phrenology, and I felt satisfied that we had received a hint of great physiological interest, which was to be earnestly followed up."

Mr. Mansfield then relates another interesting case, and concludes thus. "Not only then was this fact in nature not discovered *accidentally* by me in any sense of being stumbled on, but I was led to it through a regular, though very simple, process of induction, and went purposely to look for it."

Mr. Mansfield has never published on the subject; and it has been supposed that the discovery was accidental.—That a patient under disturbance of a cerebral organ complained of a pain in it; and that Mr. Mansfield, endeavouring to take away the pain mesmerically, as any mesmerist would, accidentally found to his surprise that the organ was set right mesmerically.

*Mesmeric Susceptibility near Death.*—"AN ENQUIRER" is informed that Mr. Saunders of Clifton lately sent a sinking and suffering patient into mesmeric sleep about a quarter of an hour before death.

*Choice of a Mesmeriser.*—A PATIENT is assured that we feel as much as he does the difficulty of procuring good mesmerisers.—A mesmeriser should be discharged who talks while he is mesmerising, for he must be very ignorant and will excite rather than soothe. The process should be conducted both in *silence and without any display or pretence.*—The passes should be made *very slowly*: the mesmeriser who makes them quickly is not worth employing; he will excite rather than soothe. In breathing on parts, this also should be done *very slowly*.—The mesmeriser should *never take his eyes off the patient, or allow his thoughts to wander*; he should be in earnest all the time. A listless, inert, mesmeriser should be exchanged without loss of time for one attentive to his business. There is no occasion for muscular effort; but great occasion for close attention and earnestness.—A mesmeriser with a fleshy, soft, warm, hand is usually the best. The room also should be warm. A cold hand, or a cold room, is most adverse to mesmeric effect.—The mesmeriser should always be in an easy position.—Gesticulations, snapping the fingers at the end of a pass, flourishes, everything removed from a quiet, slow, steady, simple procedure, are to be reprobated.—As the eyes are a very susceptible part, and communicate mesmerism well to the rest of the system, it is better that they be open and that the mesmeriser fix his own eyes upon them: unless it is irksome or irritating to the patient to keep them open, or he is not able with them open to abstain from looking about instead of fixing them and his thoughts upon the mesmeriser.

On the other hand, mesmerism is often thought to fail when the fault all rests with the patient or the friends. It is too often not allowed to be performed sedately enough, long enough at a time, often enough, or through a sufficiently long period.

Having again exceeded our limits, we must postpone old communications from Mr. H. S. Thompson and Dr. Elliotson, as well as new ones from Dr. Ashburner, Mr. Rawe of Cornwall, and some others. The report of the great London meeting has necessarily occupied much of our space.

#### Mesmeric Baptism.

Mr. Tubbs prevailed upon the parents of a baby to have it christened Mesmer. "This is to certify that Mesmer, son of John and Elizabeth Tuck, of Outwell, in the parish of Outwell, in the county of Norfolk, was born Dec. 18, 1850, and baptized Feb. 3, 1851, by Thomas Charlton, minister of the Gospel.

"Given under my hand this 4th day of February, 1851."

#### Obituary.

We have to lament the sudden death of a valued contributor, Lieut.-Colonel Davidson, Bengal Engineers. He furnished us with several interesting commu-

nications in Nos. XVIII., XXVIII., XXXI., and XXXIII., and was the author of *A Diary of Travels and Adventures in Upper India*, and very recently of an Indian Drama in five acts, entitled *Tara, the Suttie*, with copious notes, explanatory, original, and selected. He was a little eccentric, but a man of great energy, intelligence, honesty, information, facetiousness, and intrepidity, and had spent his life in the Indian service. He was well acquainted with Dr. Mouatt, whom Dr. Esdaile has so pitilessly and amusingly just shown up in his *Letters on Clairvoyance*, &c., and not long before his death expressed himself in terms of disgust at Dr. Mouatt's pitiful tergiversation.\*

He wrote to Mr. McNeile to know if the satanic sermon was reported truly, and was disgusted with that superficial preacher's contemptibly evasive reply.

\* Dr. Mouatt's strong testimony in favour of mesmerism will be found in No. XV., p. 412.

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